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レイン
原作
吉野 匠
(「レイン」アルファポリス刊)
漫画
住川 恵

レイン

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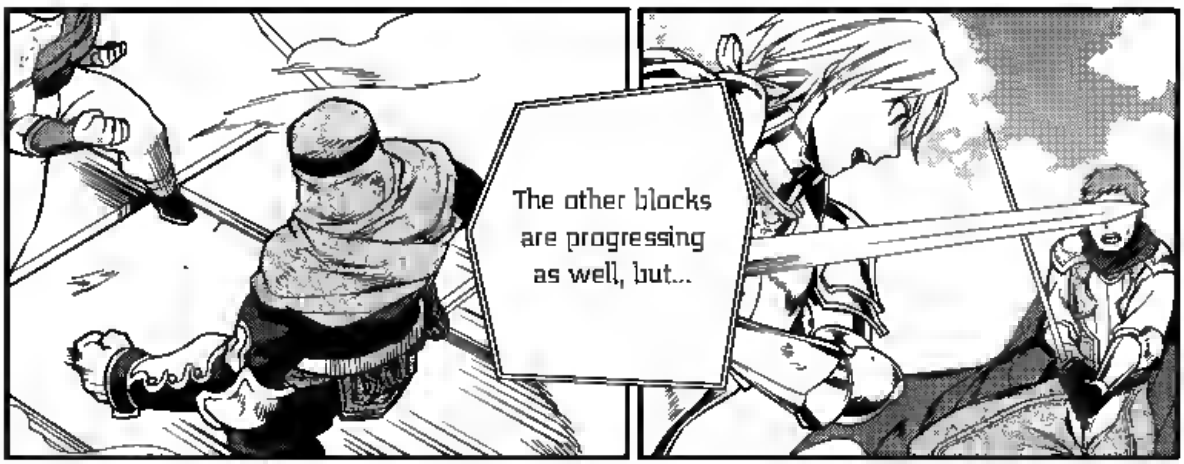
CHAPTER 144:
DANCE OF THE TWO SWORDS.
Ark of C block advances to the next round!
The Fighter's Gathering heats up!!
This side has also been decided!
And it looks like he's epologizing repeetedly for something!
I'm sorry! I have to get my money back!
I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
Victory goes to Seyl of A block!

She has won both of her last two rounds in less than a minute!
WHAT!?
Falna of D block advances to the next round!


The other blocks are progressing as well, but...

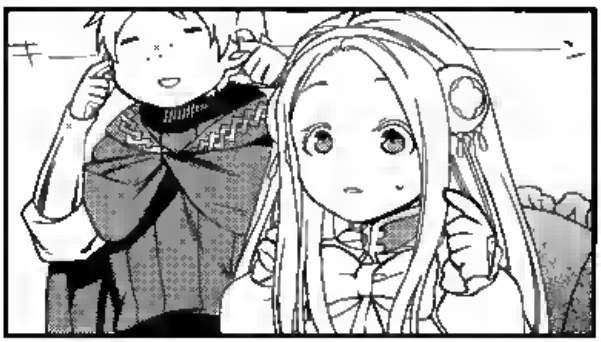
おお～
One person has dominated the crowd's attention!

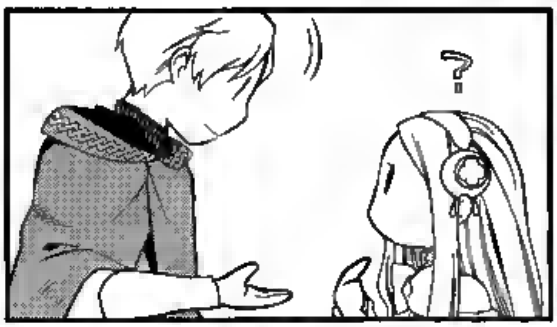
Beautiful!!
Intense!
Strong!

Be it one, eight, or twelve matches, she has taken down all her opponents in an instant!

Sylvia Rosenburg!
Whoever wins this match will proceed to the real one!
Progressing with insane speed, B block has finally **entered** the final round of the preliminary match!
Heee-llooo~~
Her opponent is Feris!
He has **swiftly and steadily** made his way to the top, as well!

WE HAVE A DUEL TO SETTLE!!!
GIVE IT ALL YA GOT FERIS!!!

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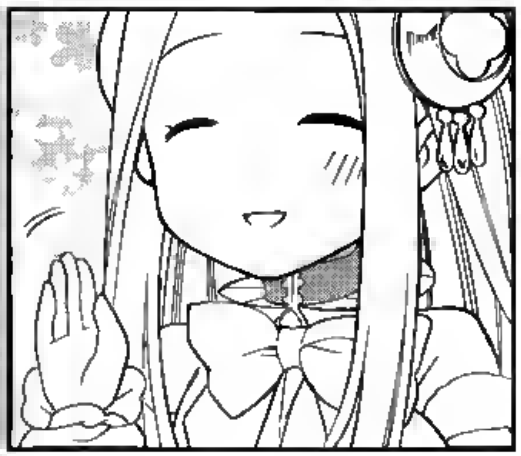
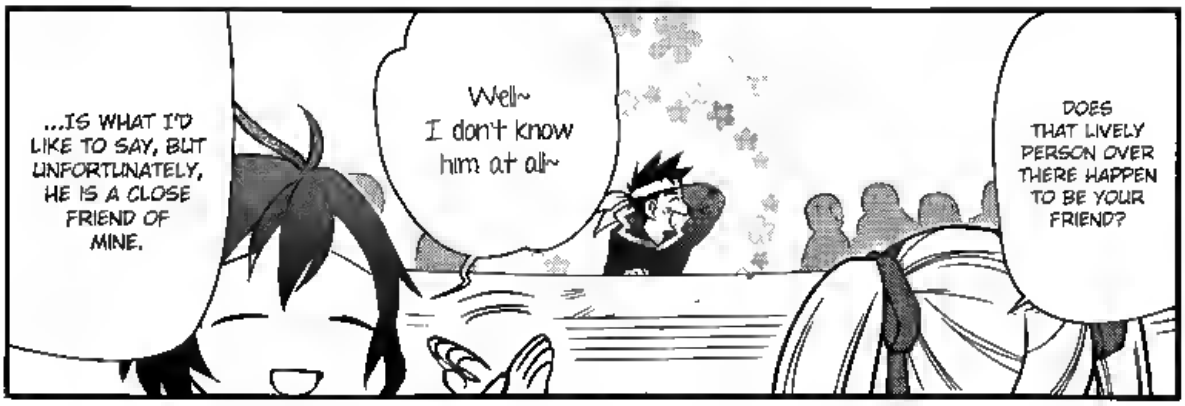



DOES THAT LIVELY PERSON OVER THERE HAPPEN TO BE YOUR FRIEND?
Well~ I don't know him at all~
...IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, HE IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF MINE.

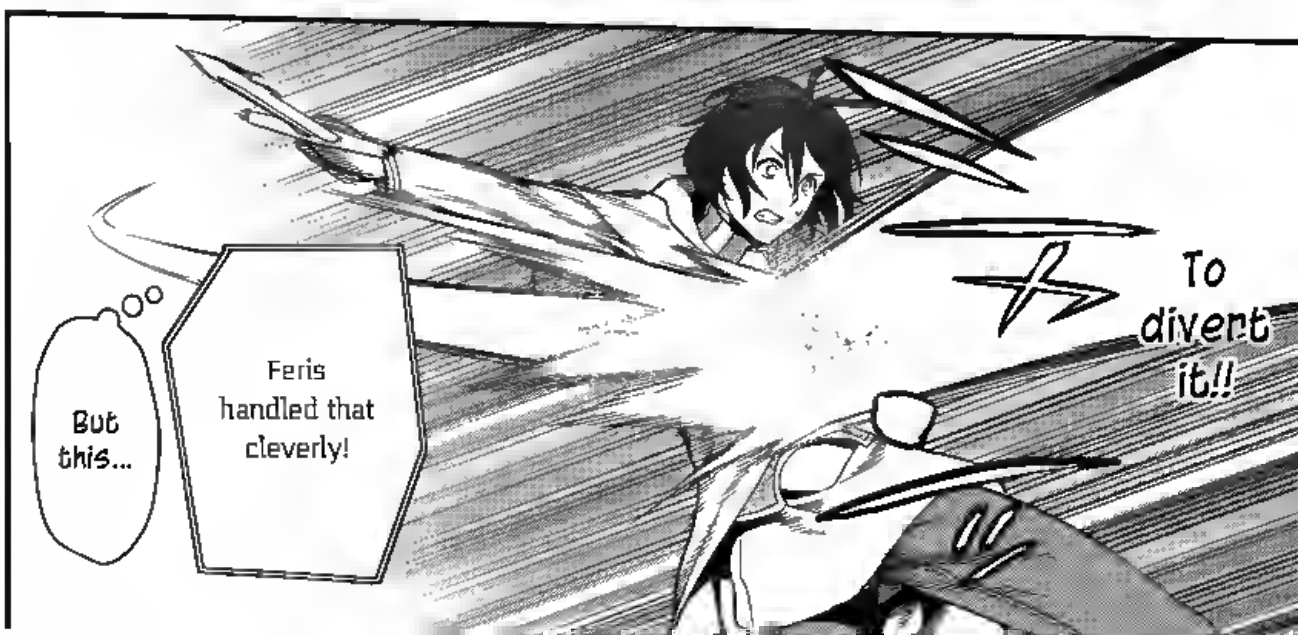
WHAT'S THAT?
MY SWORDS
I REGISTERED THEM FOR THE COMPETITION.

I'VE SEEN THE WAY YOU FIGHT, AND I THINK IT WOULD BE RUDE OF ME NOT TO USE MY REAL SWORDS A LITTLE.
A LITTLE, HUH...

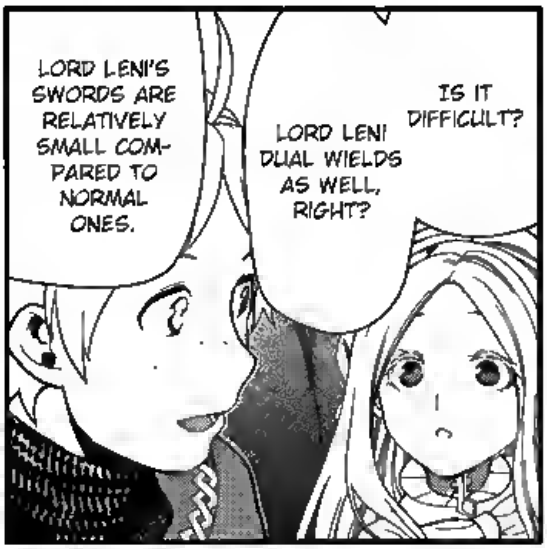
ROUND 14.
BEGIN!
ギリギリ

DON'T LET YER GUARD DOWN! THE ENEMY AIN'T GONNA WAIT FOR YA!!
She only dealt two blows, and it's already like this!?
No way
I'M COMING FOR YOU

I'll have to use the momentum...
If I take that head on, I'm done for.
What a relentless flurry of strikes!!


To divert it!!
Feris handled that cleverly!
But this...

He has no opportunity to counter!
LOOKS LIKE IT~

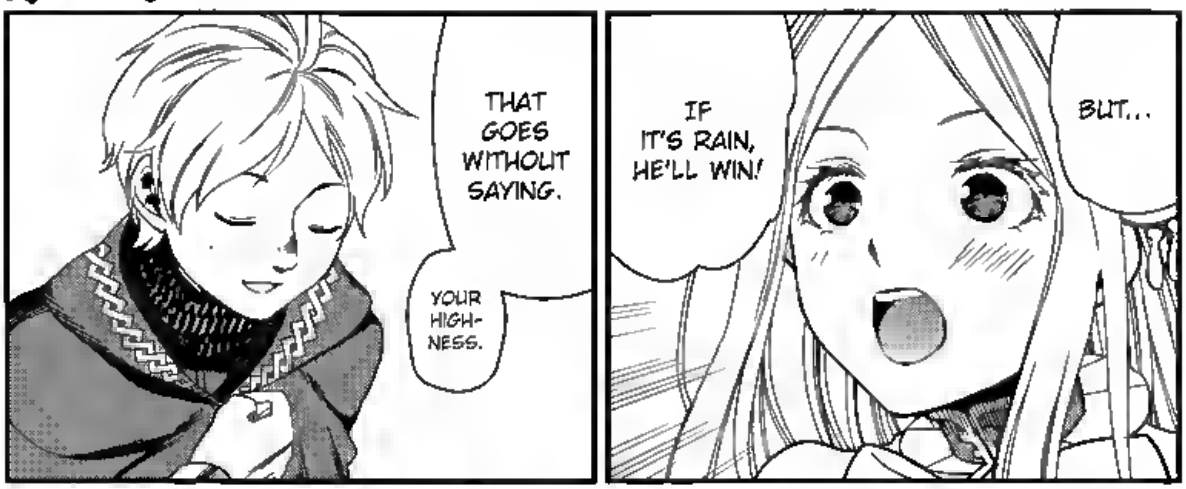

LORD LENI'S SWORDS ARE RELATIVELY SMALL COMPARED TO NORMAL ONES.
LORD LENI DUAL WIELDS AS WELL, RIGHT?
IS IT DIFFICULT?

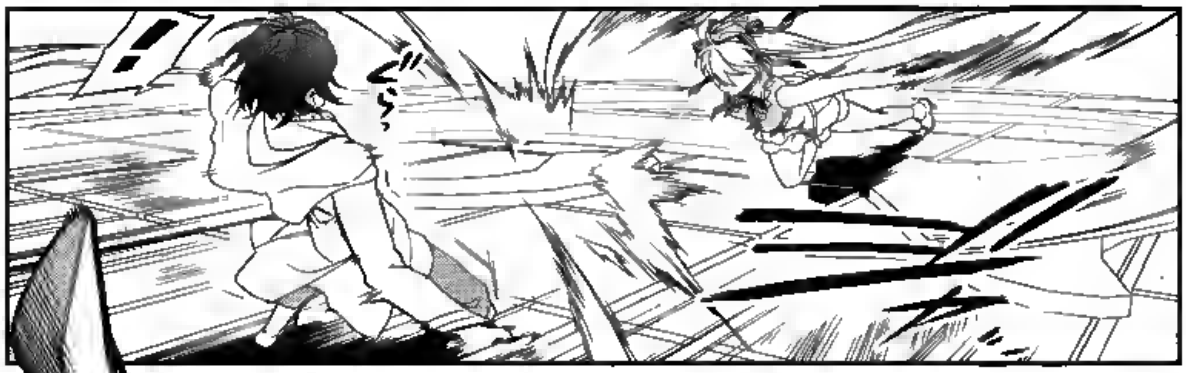
SYLVIA IS AMAZING.
DUAL WIELDING... IF YOU MASTER THAT, YOU'RE A REAL THREAT.

YOU NEED TO HAVE THE NATURAL FLAIR TO USE BOTH SWORDS FOR ATTACK AND DEFENSE.
IF YOU SWUNG THOSE AROUND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, YOU'D ONLY BREAK YOUR STANCE.
COUPLED WITH HER SPEED...

MEANWHILE, SHE USES LARGE SWORDS IN BOTH HANDS.
EVEN A LARGE MAN COULDN'T USE THEM SINGLE-HANDEDLY.

It looks as if she's performing a dance!
HER STRENGTH AND SKILL ARE ON AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT LEVEL.
EVEN THOUGH OUR CONTINENT IS SO LARGE, IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND SOMEONE OF HER CALIBER.


THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
YOUR HIGH-NESS.
IF IT'S RAIN, HE'LL WIN!
BUT...


!
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SHIT...

Ah, I forgot she could kick as well..
I saw something good...
PLEASE SURRENDER.
THE ONLY PERSON WHO MANAGED TO DEFEAT MY DUAL WIELDING WAS A BOY THAT I MET TEN YEARS AGO.
YOU UNDERSTAND OUR DIFFERENCE IN STRENGTH, BUT YOU FEEL COMPELLED TO FIGHT ON FOR YOUR FRIEND...
Fens!
Hey!!
IT WOULD BE A REAL PROBLEM IF THE CHIEF WERE TO SUSTAIN HEAVY INJURIES FIGHTING YOU IN A REAL MATCH.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE SUPER POWERFUL.
I WANT TO DO THAT, BUT...

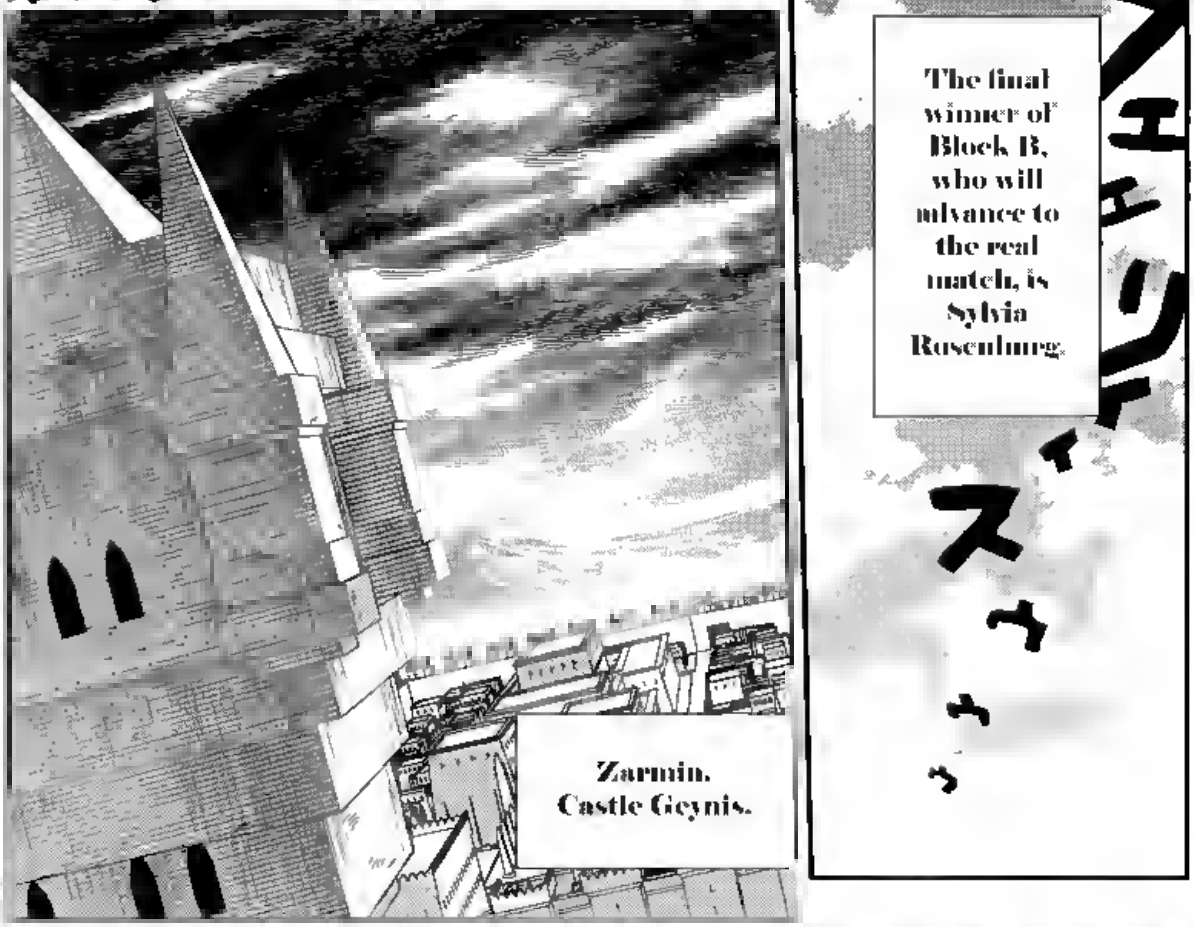
I DON'T INTEND TO HARM ANYONE.
OTHER THAN LOWLIFES AND UNPLEASANT PEOPLE...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
THAT INCLUDES YOU GUYS.
ARE YOU UNABLE TO RELEASE YOUR TRUE STRENGTH BECAUSE YOU ARE CONFUSED AS TO WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING?
EVEN IF I DID FIGHT FOR REAL, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'D WIN.
OF COURSE.
DO I HAVE YOUR WORD ON THAT?
The B block match ended extremely peacefully!!
Okay then!
I SURRENDER~

TO BEGIN WITH, WE'RE MERCENARIES, SO IT'S AN IRON-CLAD RULE FOR US TO ONLY PICK ON PEOPLE WHO WE'RE SURE TO WIN AGAINST.
FERIS !!
HEY !!
ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD RISK HIS LIFE FOR THIS KIND OF COMPETITION.
Ahahaha

FERIS, WHY YOU !!!

WE FIGHT TO THE DEATH!!
A REAL MAN WOULD NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH THAT!!

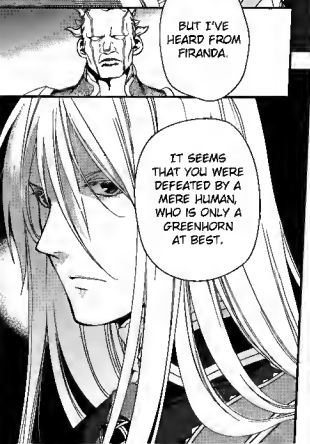
WH... !?
THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S AN IDIOT.
YOUR FRIEND SAYS OTHERWISE, THOUGH.

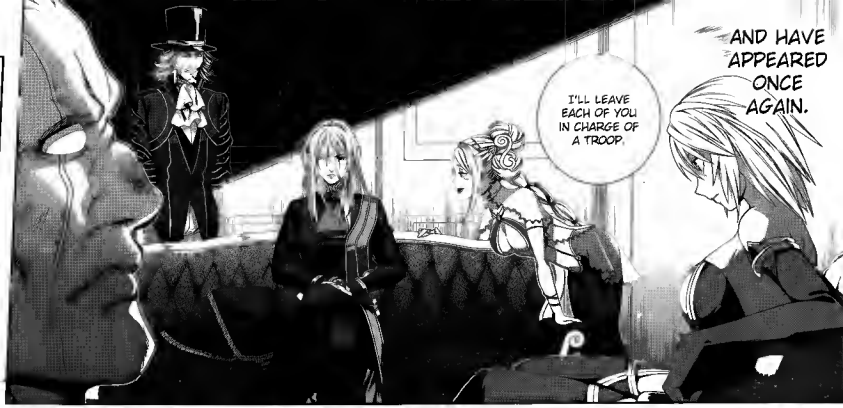

The final winner of Block B, who will advance to the real match, is Sylvia Rosenburg.
Zarmin. Castle Geynis.

We human beings lack the knowledge of how to deal with demons.
A long time ago, we crossed blades. Despite the past sufferings—the past...

...THAT IS ALL.
They vanished somewhere...
Ever since the Holy War...

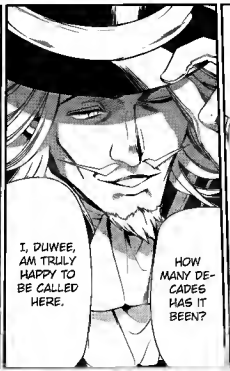
NOEL!
WE WILL MAKE THIS WORLD OUR OWN.
THAT I WON'T DENY.


BUT I'VE HEARD FROM FIRANDA.
IT SEEMS THAT YOU WERE DEFEATED BY A MERE HUMAN, WHO IS ONLY A GREENHORN AT BEST.


I'LL LEAVE EACH OF YOU IN CHARGE OF A TROOP.
AND HAVE APPEARED ONCE AGAIN.

WAIT, REYGUL.
I HAVE YET TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS MY LEADER.

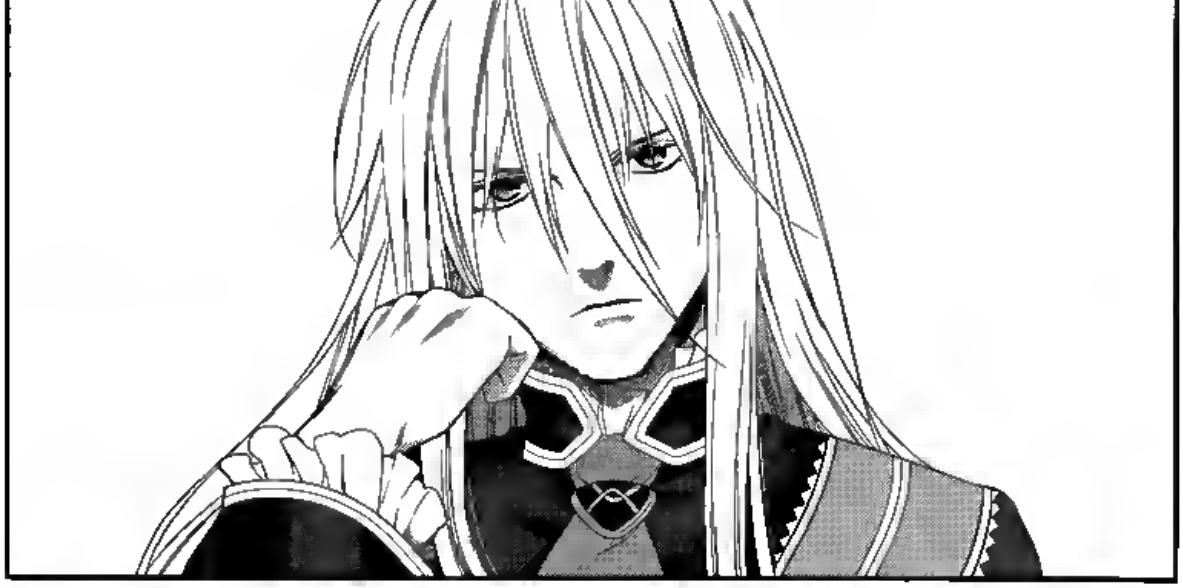
.....


I, DUWEE, AM TRULY HAPPY TO BE CALLED HERE.
HOW MANY DECADES HAS IT BEEN?

LEAVE IT TO YOUR HUMBLE SARAH.

COWARD.
THE REALITY IS THAT I'M STILL HERE ALIVE
INDEED, I DID RETREAT AFTER CROSSING BLADES WITH HIM, BUT THAT ALONE CANNOT DECIDE THE BATTLE'S VICTOR.
FOR YOU TO COME UP WITH EXCUSES... YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, BEYON!!
THE PRIDE OF OUR CLAN IS THAT POWER MEANS EVERYTHING!
HUH?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO REBEL AGAINST US?
YOU SURE SAY A LOT OF UNNECESSARY THINGS, EH, FIRANDA?
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, NOEL!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT LORD BEYON DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS!?

トン
...AS LONG AS HE'S ALIVE, THE VICTOR HAS YET TO BE DECIDED.
ON THAT, I AGREE WITH REYGUL.
HOWEVER, WHERE TRIUMPH AND PRIDE ARE CONCERNED, AS A WARRIOR, WHAT NOEL SAID WAS...
CORRECT.
BE QUIET.

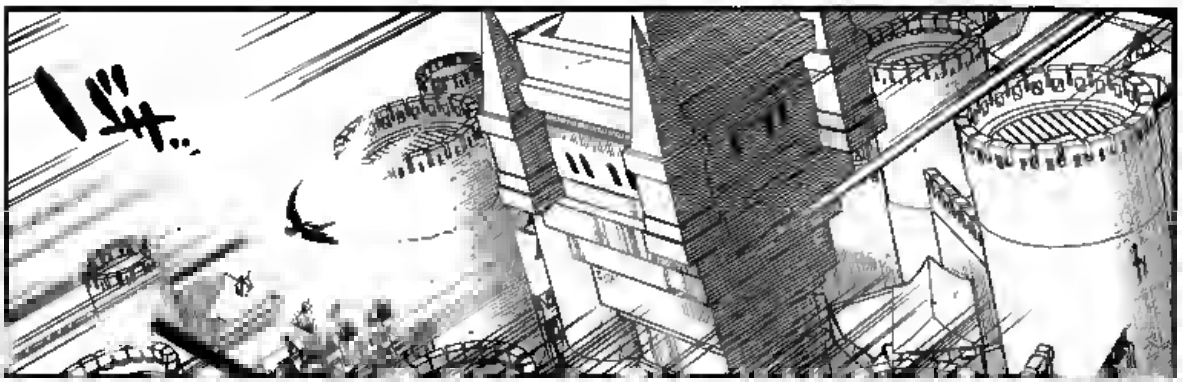


NOEL.
I INVITED YOU, BUT DON'T FEEL COMPELLED TO AGREE.
IF YOU DO NOT RESPECT ME AS YOUR LEADER, I'M FINE WITH THAT.
BUT, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WILL YOU GO BACK HOME?

I'M FED UP WITH THOSE GUYS.
I'M NOT GOING BACK THERE.
The home of the demon clan...?
I WILL DO AS I PLEASE.

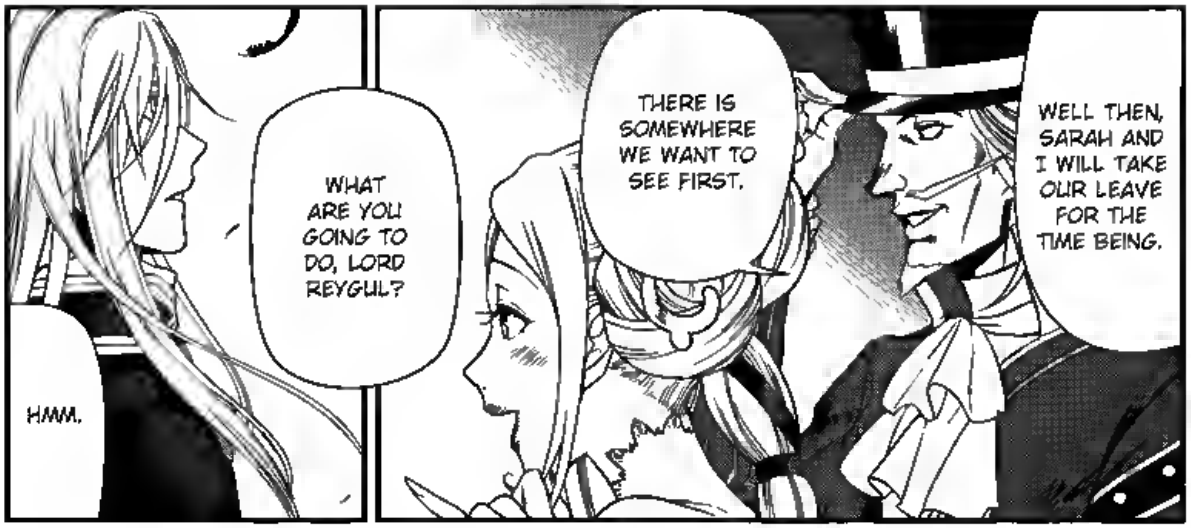
AS A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE CLAN, I WILL ADVISE YOU ON ONE THING.

DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE HIM.
THAT MAN IS ON A FAR HIGHER LEVEL THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE.


Sht...

HMM...

NOW I'M STARTING TO GET A LITTLE INTERESTED.
EVEN SO, A HUMAN THAT EVEN REYGUL IS WARY OF...
HE PARTED WITH HIS COMRADES PRETTY QUICKLY.
REORGANIZE THE ARMIES AS YOU PLEASE


HMM.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, LORD REYGUL?
THERE IS SOMEWHERE WE WANT TO SEE FIRST.
WELL THEN, SARAH AND I WILL TAKE OUR LEAVE FOR THE TIME BEING.

Seyl from A block will advance to the real match!

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF TO OUR CITIZENS.

THE REPUTATION OF SYANDRIS (AS WELL AS THE FATE OF OUR WALLETS) RESTS ON YOUR SHOULDERS!
THAT'S HEAVY!!
GOOD WORK, BIG BROTHER!
GOOD WORK, SEYL.
KEEP THIS UP DURING THE REAL MATCH, AS WELL!
What are we going to do about that?
OH RIGHT!
At the same time, these eight winners will earn the title of a true knight of Sunkwoll!
Now then, the eight winners who will participate in the real match tomorrow are all present!
C
D
However, due to the unexpectedly quick progression, it was finished in a day!
The preliminary round was intended to be held over a period of two days.

The real match will begin tomorrow at noon!
Who will be the one to have their wish granted by Her Highness the Princess!!?
LOOKS LIKE TOMORROW IS GOING TO BE A ROUGH DAY

RAIN
SENSE SCANS
www.sensescans.com
#Sense@irc.rizon.net
Raws: [illegible]
Translator: zkein
Proofreader: Miyakumo
Cleaner: Tammy
Redrawer: Zazuma & Minty
Typesetter: Duckori
Quality Checker: Revan
漫画 住川惠
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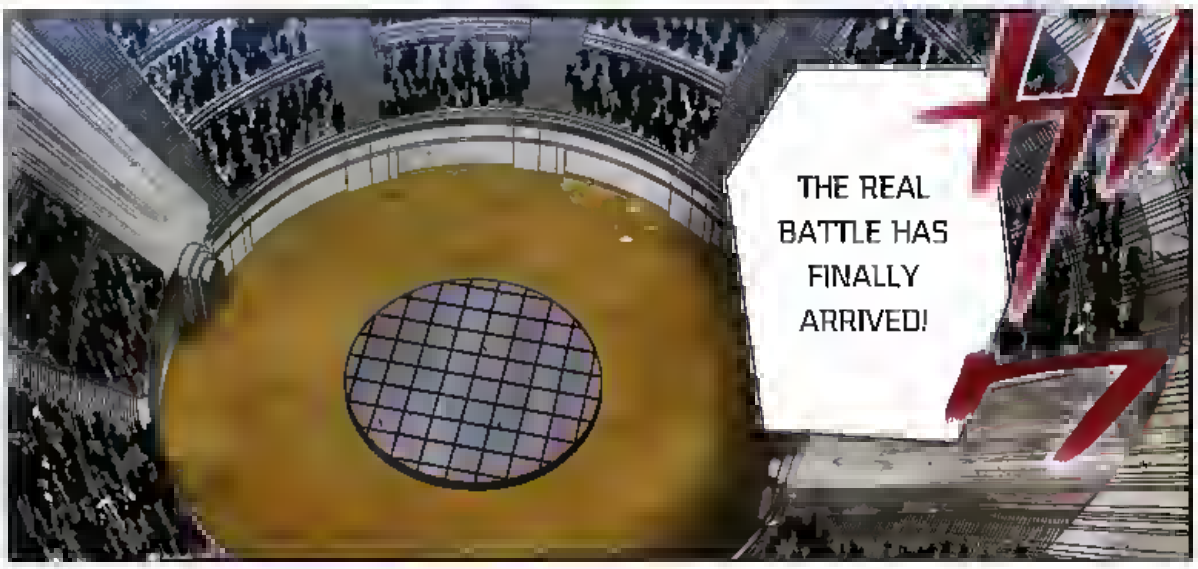
The Fighters' Gathering is the time where fierce fighters gather to fight real battles...



CHAPTER 45: THE ATTACK OF THE INVISIBLE ENEMY (PART ONE)
吉野匠
住川恵
To be with you on a spring in full bloom...
With the golden wind that hovers cherry blossoms...
And the silver bell that dances to the breeze.
8
最新第8巻好評発売中!!

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL APPEAR FOR THE REAL MATCH, HUH.
List of participants for the match.
Group A: Seyl (Swordsman/Male)
Group B: Sylvia Rosenburg (Tentatively a Swordsman/Female)
Group C: Ark (A passing mercenary/Male)
Group D: Falna (Swordsman/Female)
Group E: Felt (Priest/Male)
Group F: ~~Black masked Phantom thief~~ (cancelled),
the agent, Gunther Varoa (Multiple jobs/Male)
Group G: Gath (Martial Artist/Male)
Group H: Abel (Hero/Male)
*Stated occupations are self-declared.
YES.
MR ABEL OF H BLOCK DECLARED HIMSELF AS "HERO", WHICH MEANS...

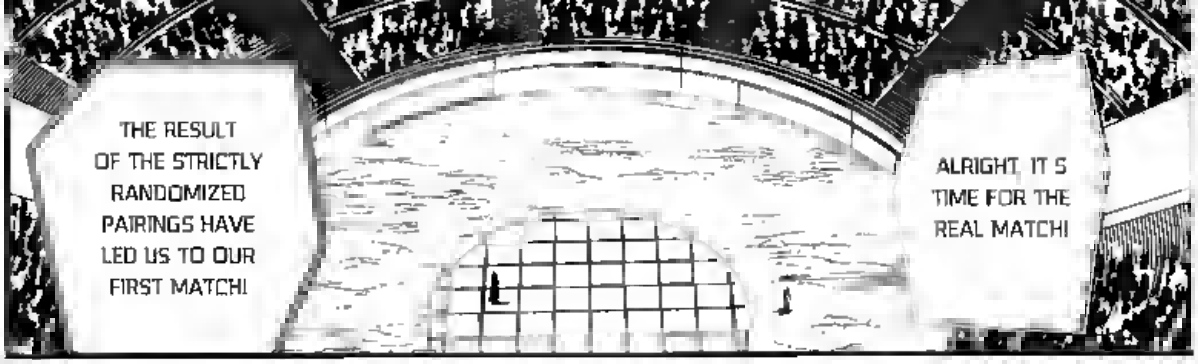
MR. ABEL MUST BE A DESCENDANT OF ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE
BESIDES THE LEGENDARY KING OF HEROES, JOE JELVER, THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHERS, WHO PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE HOLY WAR AS WELL AND WERE NOMINATED TO HOLD THAT TITLE.

I'M ALREADY SO AFRAID OF GUNTHER AND NOW THIS "HERO" GUY!?
WERE YOU LISTENING TO WHAT I WAS SAYING!?
IT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH TO GET THE CHAMPIONSHIP, SEYL.

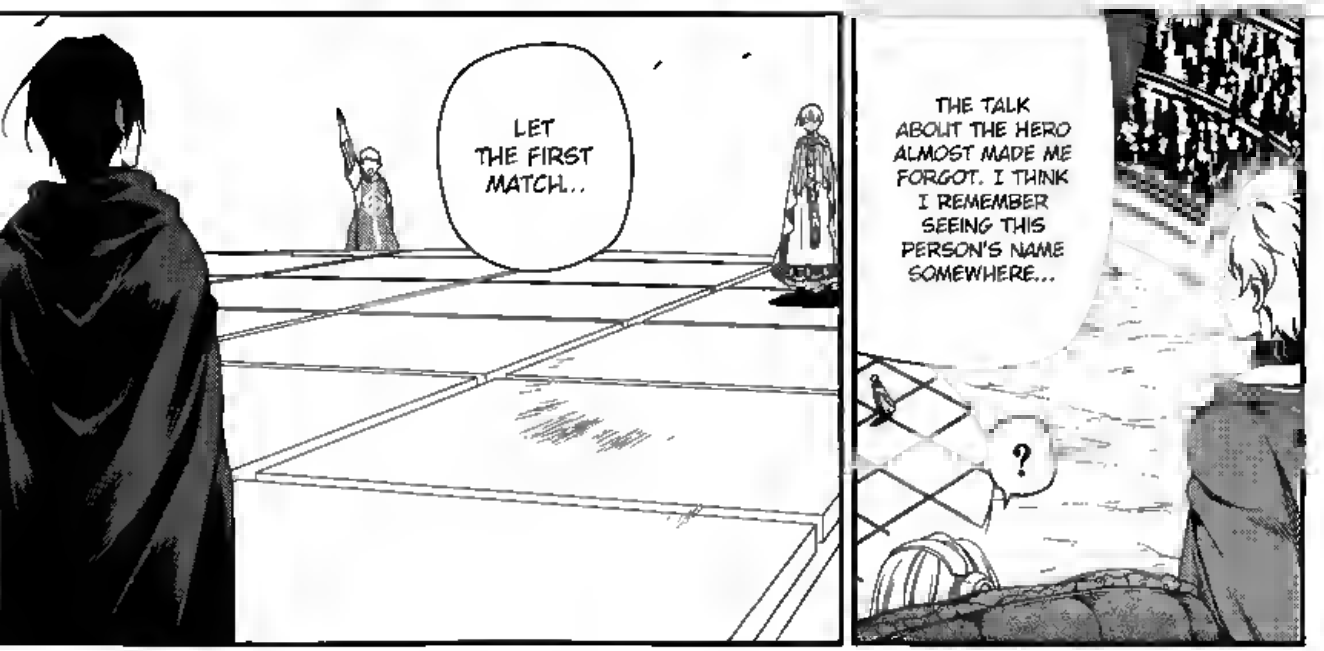
SEE YOU LATER THEN, LADY SHELFA.

Somehow, it feels like Joe is chiding me.
?

NOW, NOW, LADY FOLNIER..
LET US MOVE TO OUR SEATS.
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE FIGHTERS TO GATHER.


THE RESULT OF THE STRICTLY RANDOMIZED PAIRINGS HAVE LED US TO OUR FIRST MATCH!
ALRIGHT, IT'S TIME FOR THE REAL MATCH!

WHY IS HIS OPPONENT, A PERSON OF SUCH SACRED PROFESSION, HERE IN THE FIGHTERS' GATHERING!?
FELT THE PRIEST!
FROM THE F BLOCK, THE AGENT OF THE BLACK MASKED PHANTOM THIEF, WITH MULTIPLE OCCUPATIONS...
GUNTHER VAROA!


LET THE FIRST MATCH...
THE TALK ABOUT THE HERO ALMOST MADE ME FORGOT. I THINK I REMEMBER SEEING THIS PERSON'S NAME SOMEWHERE...
?

BEGIN!
!
This weapon...
YOU HAVE GOOD EYES.
SILVER RINGS?
SMALL...

GODDESS MENAM?
SO IT'S NOT MURAS, THE GODDESS OF WAR?
YES.
WEAPONS OF SELF-PROTECTION APPROVED ONLY TO EMINENT SHINTO PRIESTS WHO SERVE MENAM, THE GODDESS OF LOVE, BEALITY AND HARMONY.
THESE CIRCULAR THROWING BLADES ARE CALLED CHAKRAM.
WHY IS SUCH A PERSON FIGHTING HERE...
FIGHTER FELT.
IN THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS, HE USED HIS CLEVER THROWING TECHNIQUES TO CLIMB TO VICTORY, WHILE HAVING HIS OPPONENTS SUSTAIN ONLY MINOR INJURIES.

IF YOU KEEP AVOIDING MY VITAL SPOTS, YOU WON'T LAND A SINGLE HIT EVEN IF YOU WANT TO.
HOWEVER, HE HASN'T LANDED A SINGLE HIT AT ALL!

...
AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, I DON'T WISH TO HURT ANYONE!
THIS LOOKS FRIGHTENING!
FIGHTER GUNTHER SEEMS TO BE MURMURING SOMETHING AS HE CLOSES UP THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM

I HAVE TO WIN THIS MATCH!
AS A FOLLOWER OF GODDESS MENAM...
HOW-EVER...
THE CASE IS DIFFERENT WHEN I CAN'T ACHIEVE A SIMPLE VICTORY.
I WILL WIN... AND THE CHURCH...
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I WILL BE DISMISSED
I see.

Holy
Blast!

PLEASE FORGIVE MY SINS.
OH LORD...
AND YOU DO REALIZE THAT I WAS HOLDING BACK MOST OF MY POWER JUST NOW, DON'T YOU?
I'M SURE YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MOVE NOW.
IF YOU DO, I PROMISE YOU THAT I WILL IMMEDIATELY PERFORM HEALING MAGIC ON YOU.
NOW THEN, PLEASE SURRENDER.

I'M AFRAID I'D HAVE TO REFUSE

A Magic Shield!?

IT CAN'T BE!
THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A DIRECT HIT

I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING THAT I CAN'T USE MAGIC.
MY SPECIALTY IS "MULTIPLE OCCUPATIONS" AFTER ALL

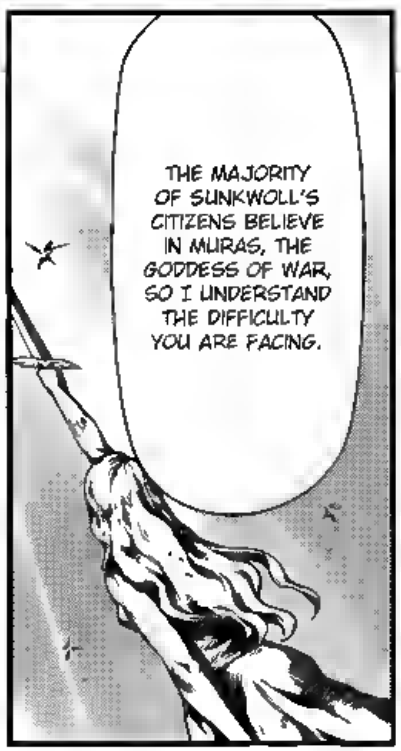
FOR YOU TO BE A FELLOW MAGICIAN AS WELL...
So that was an incantation

I...
I HAVE LOST...
AND THE WINNER IS... GUNTHER VEROA!
I REMEMBER NOW!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I HAVE SEEN MR. FELT'S NAME SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

IN THE PAST, YOU USED TO COME HERE OFTEN IN ATTEMPT TO RECEIVE PERMISSION FROM THE KING TO ESTABLISH THE CHURCH OF GODDESS MENAM.
THE PREVIOUS KING, DOUGLAS, WITH HIS MAIN REASON BEING THE LACK OF FUNDS, ALWAYS REJECTED YOU.

I MIGHT BE INTERFERING TOO MUCH, BUT...

YES.


THE MAJORITY OF SUNKWOLL'S CITIZENS BELIEVE IN MURAS, THE GODDESS OF WAR, SO I UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTY YOU ARE FACING.

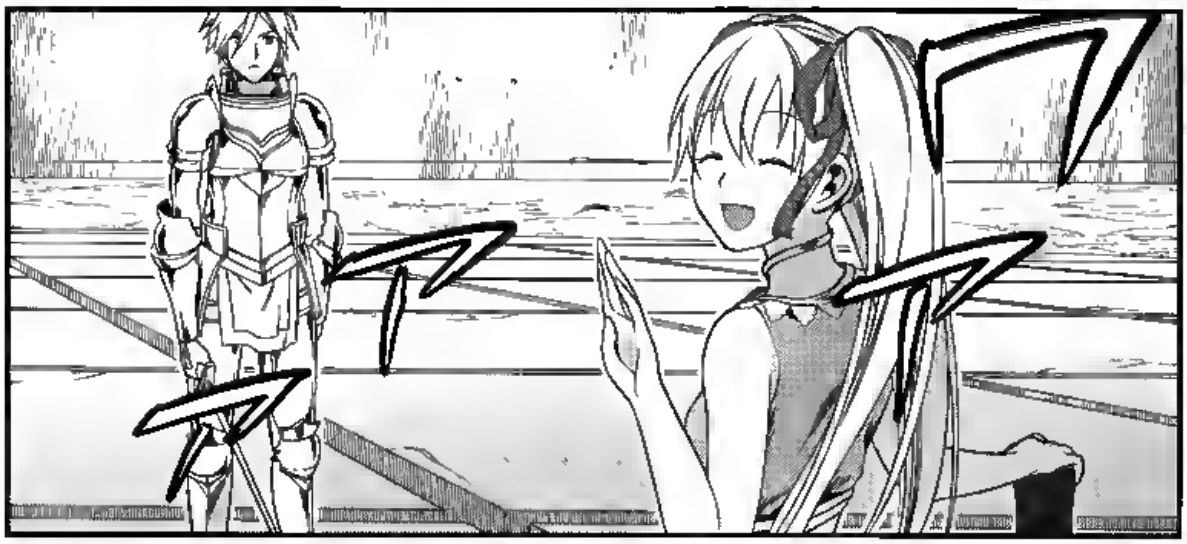
THAT IS WHY I PARTICIPATED IN THIS COMPETITION
SHE WILL DEFINITELY RESPOND TO YOUR PETITION FOR THE CHURCH.

BECAUSE THAT'S JUST HOW OUR CURRENT RULER IS
EVEN WITHOUT THE SPECIAL PRIVILEGE GRANTED TO THE WINNER
WE WILL NOW MOVE ON TO THE SECOND ROUND!

ヒロイン
THE WINNER OF H BLOCK, HERO ABEL!
THAT'S THE RUMORED HERO.
PRINCESS!
I WILL OFFER YOU MY SWORD FROM THIS DAY FORTH!
PLEASE WATCH ME FIGHT THIS BATTLE!
ざっ
O...
OKAY.

I WILL!
DO YOUR BEST, ALRIGHT.
HERO ABEL SURE IS POPULAR!
Give it your all, Mr. Hero!
So this is how a knight feels like.
He's kinda cute
How dreamy!
きゃあ
きゃあ
YOU GIRLS ARE SO INDECENT, GOING HEAD OVER HEELS OVER A KID WHO PUT ON AIRS.
AND HIS OPPONENT IS NO LESS POPULAR THAN HIM!
THE WINNER OF B BLOCK, SYLVIA ROSENBURG!
HI! ♡

LOVE SILVIA
AAA!!
VI...
SYL



WILL YOU SURRENDER?

ROUND 2...
I ADMIRE YOUR HONOR AS A KNIGHT, BUT...

I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE LEVEL OF YOUR STRENGTH.
HOWEVER, I DO NOT WISH TO POINT MY BLADE AT A FEMALE OPPONENT.

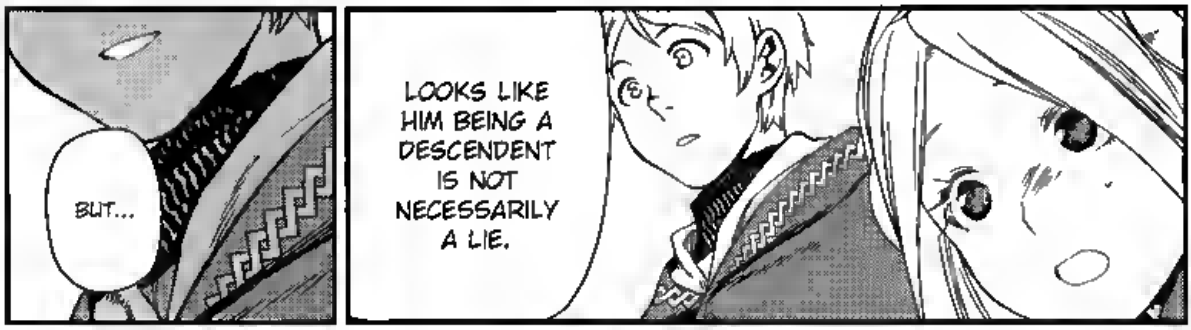
START!
I'M SORRY.
I'M AFRAID NOT.

LOOKS LIKE YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF.
EVERYONE ELSE COULD ONLY GO ON THE DEFENSE AGAINST HER...
HE'S DOING PRETTY WELL...
WELL THEN...
LET'S SPEED THINGS UP. ♪

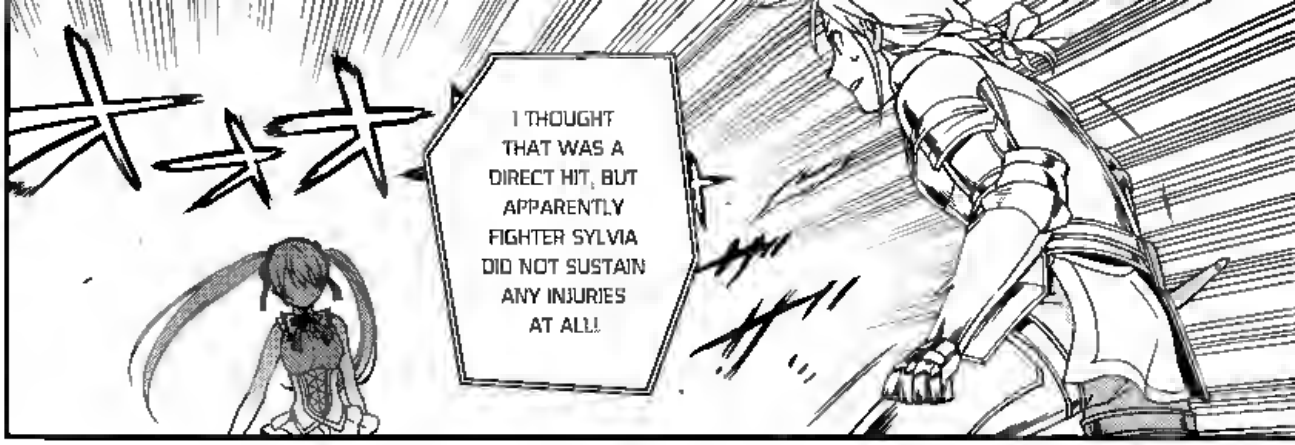
ガ!!
ギ
AS EXPECTED FROM A HERO...
STURDY, AREN'T YOU?
CAN YOU TRY CATCHING UP A LITTLE?
SHE'S MOVING EVEN FASTER!
Wuh...
Bring it on...
ガキ!!

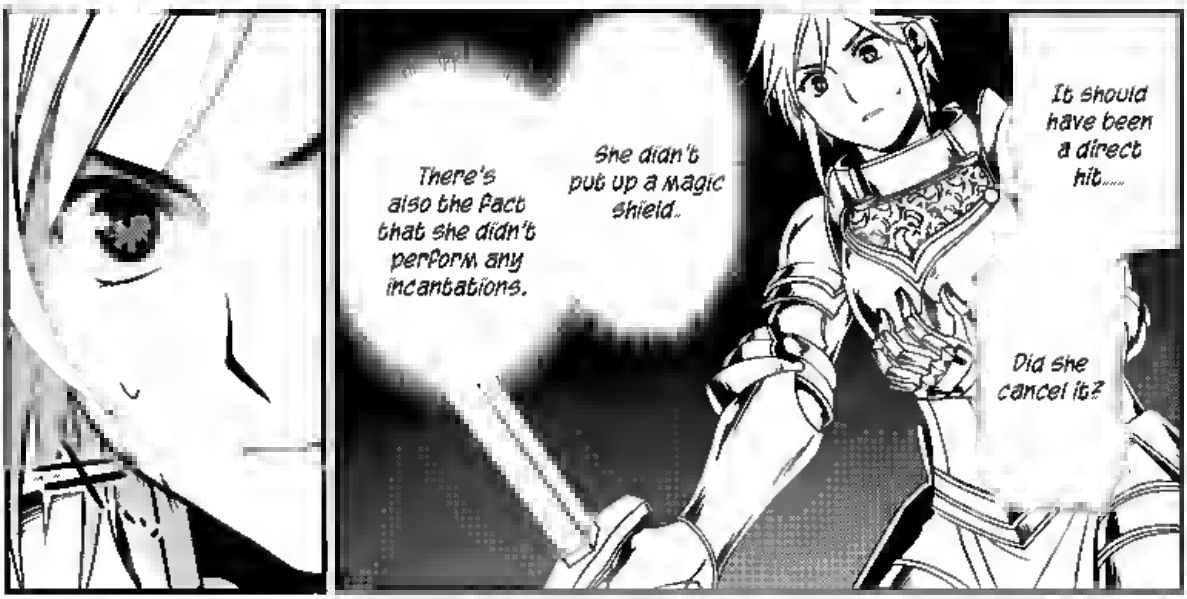
?!
THERE!

WITHOUT INCANTA-TIONS!?
LIGHT-NING MAGIC!


BUT...
LOOKS LIKE HIM BEING A DESCENDENT IS NOT NECESSARILY A LIE.

HE'S FIGHTING AGAINST THE WRONG OPPONENT.
WH...
WHAT!?


I THOUGHT THAT WAS A DIRECT HIT, BUT APPARENTLY FIGHTER SYLVIA DID NOT SUSTAIN ANY INJURIES AT ALL!


It should have been a direct hit.....
She didn't put up a magic shield.
There's also the fact that she didn't perform any incantations.
Did she cancel it?

SHAKE IT OFF?
DID SHE JUST...
This is...
To her, this level of magic is just an old trick.
That wasn't magic...

DID YOU THINK THAT ONLY THE ANCIENT ANCESTORS, HEROES AND DEMONIC CLANS CAN PERFORM MAGIC WITHOUT INCANTATIONS?
YOU MUST HAVE EXHAUSTED YOUR LUCK TO EVEN TRY CHALLENGING ME IN MAGIC.

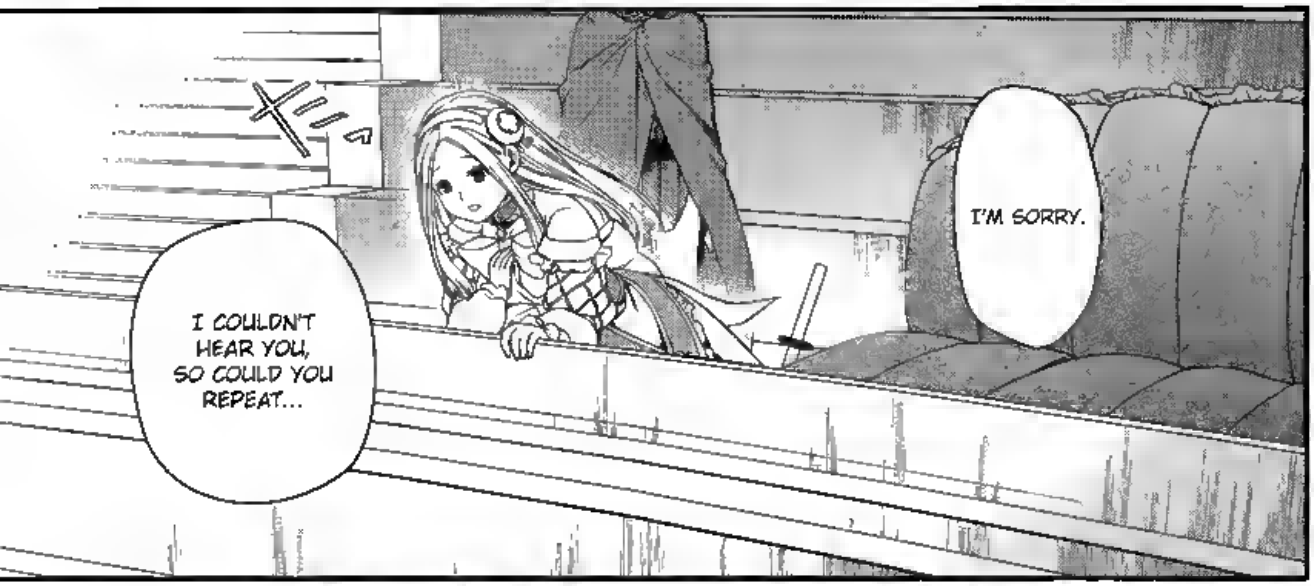
A concentration of magical energy on her arm.
An intense amount of magical energy that surpasses even magic shields!
YOU'RE MAKING ME LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT!
THIS IS NOT A STORY OF THE HOLY WAR.
THERE'S NO WAY A SUPERIOR RUNEMASTER WOULD EXIST AT THIS POINT IN TIME!
WH...

AH.
HEY,
REFEREE.
ぴくっ

NOW, HOW CAN YOU TELL WHETHER HE HAS STEPPED OUT OF THE RING OR NOT?
NO....
EITHER WAY, IT'S MY LOSS.
AND THE WINNER IS... SYLVIA ROSENBURG!

THAT SPELL JUST NOW... IS THE SAME AS RAIN'S...
PLEASE HOLD ON A MOMENT WHILE WE REMOVE THE WRECKAGE IN THE ARENA.
MARTIAL ARTIST GATH!
VERSUS ..
THE PASSING MERCENARY ARK...
AND NOW FOR THE THIRD MATCH...

I JUST FIND NECESSARY FOR ME TO SAY THIS BEFORE THE MATCH BEGINS...
FORGIVE ME FOR CALLING OUT TO YOU.
PRINCESS


I COULDN'T HEAR YOU, SO COULD YOU REPEAT...
I'M SORRY.

THE TWO OF YOU CAN COME OUT NOW!

GROUND FLOOR TROOPS, BLOCK OFF ANY ESCAPE ROUTES AND SECURE THE INTRUDERS!
THE REST OF THE SOLDIERS EVACUATE THE AUDIENCE FROM THE ARENA!
IT'S TIRING TO HIDE OURSELVES.
HEY YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO HER!?

HOO...
I'M THEIR TARGET.
YOUR HIGHNESS, GET BACK!
VERY PERCEP-TIVE.
YOU MUST BE TALMA'S COMRADES.
A BEAST-MASTER WHO HAD A SERVANT WITH HER ATTACKED ME BEFORE.
YOUR PRESENCE FEELS FAMILIAR.
YOU HAVE GOT GUTS.
BUT DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE ANY CHANCE OF WINNING?
SO PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T LAY A HAND ON THE OTHERS.
I'M YOUR ONLY TARGET.

NO...
IT'S JUST THAT.
THERE'S SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
AND I DON'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT HIM WHEN HE HEARS THAT...
"THE PRINCESS WAS UNSIGHTLY, CRYING AND WAILING UP UNTIL HER DEATH."
WELL SAID.
I SHALL EXEMPT YOU OF THAT RESOLUTION AND DESTROY YOU IN AN INSTANT.
I have a feeling that I can accept that end.

AS LONG AS I'M BY YOUR SIDE.
I WON'T LET YOU DIE THAT EASILY.
STOP TRYING TO DIE AS YOU PLEASE.
LITTLE ONE.

As usual, Rain returns to the young Queen's side during the critical moment——!!

RA...

RAIN!?

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NEEDS YOUR HELP!
EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY!

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46 THE ATTACK OF THE INVISIBLE ENEMY (PART TWO)

AT LEAST, MY SUBORDINATE WHO TOOK MY APPEARANCE WAS.
しゅん…
I WONDER HOW LONG I HAVE TO STAY IN THIS FORM.
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY FOR BEING A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING WHILE IN THIS FORM!!

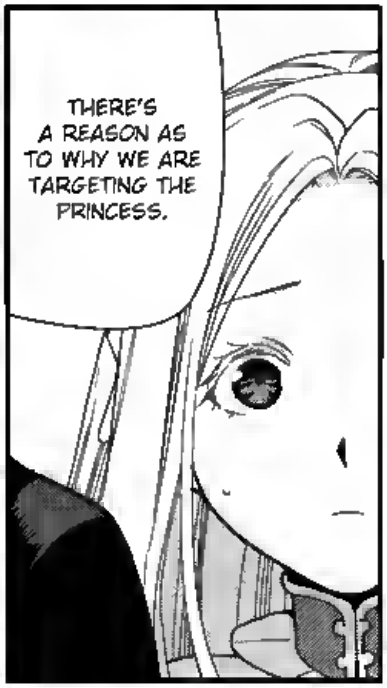
BUT OF COURSE HIS MAGICAL ENERGY IS BEING DISGUISED AS WELL
Make people think that you're always looking down on everything!
Be more impudent and arrogant!

YOU SOUND WAY TOO CUNNING, GENERAL...
YOU RELIED TOO MUCH ON FINDING TRACES OF MAGICAL ENERGY, OLD MAN.
YOU'RE A DISGRACE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE THROUGH SUCH ILLUSIONS.

THE PRESENCE I SENSED JUST NOW WASN'T THIS WEAK.
BUUUUUUT ...
SO, ONLY THREE OF YOU CAME MARCHING IN FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION?

DON'T GET SO AGITATED.

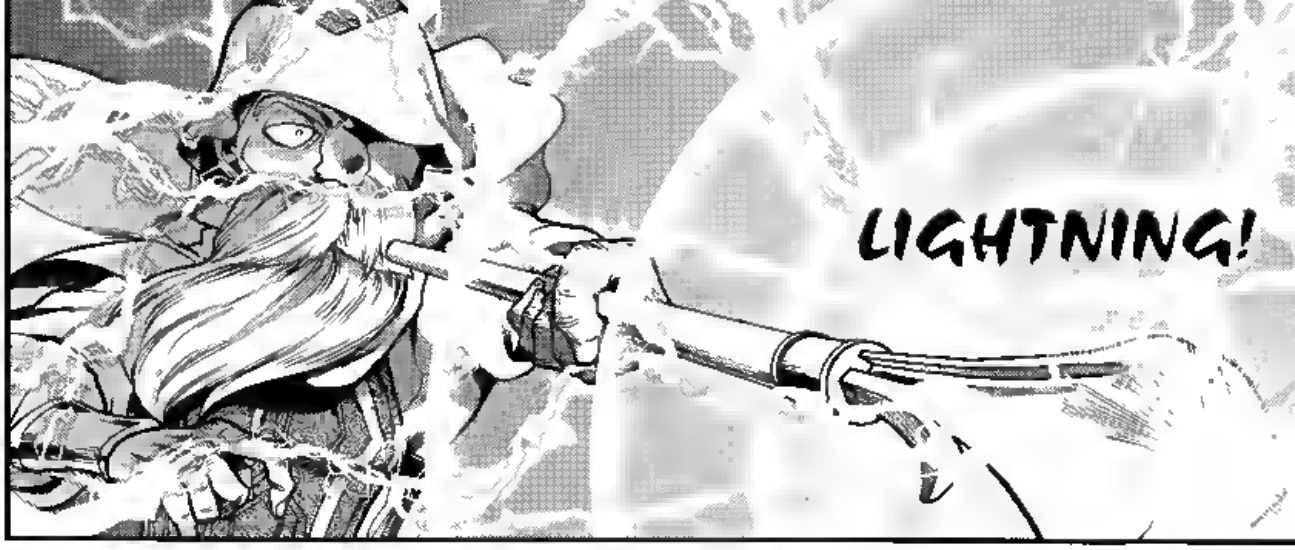
A PERSON LIKE YOU WHO WIELDS THE POWER OF A DRAGON..
SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHICH IS RIGHT, GIVEN THE SITUATION.


THERE'S A REASON AS TO WHY WE ARE TARGETING THE PRINCESS.

I HAVE A ROUGH IDEA.
WHAT ...
I THINK... WHAT YOU'RE GOING AFTER IS JUST A PATHETIC, OLD-FASHIONED DELUSION.
ピク

YOU UNDERSTAND OUR INTENTION AND YET YOU STILL CHOOSE TO OPPOSE US?
YOU'RE ACTING INAPPROPRIATELY TOWARDS OTHERS.
AS IF YOU PERVERTS, WHO PERSISTENTLY PROWL ON A GIRL, HAVE ANY RIGHT TO SAY THAT.
EVEN IF THE PRINCESS HERSELF BEARS NO SIN,
HER EXISTENCE IS AN EVIL THAT MUST PERISH.

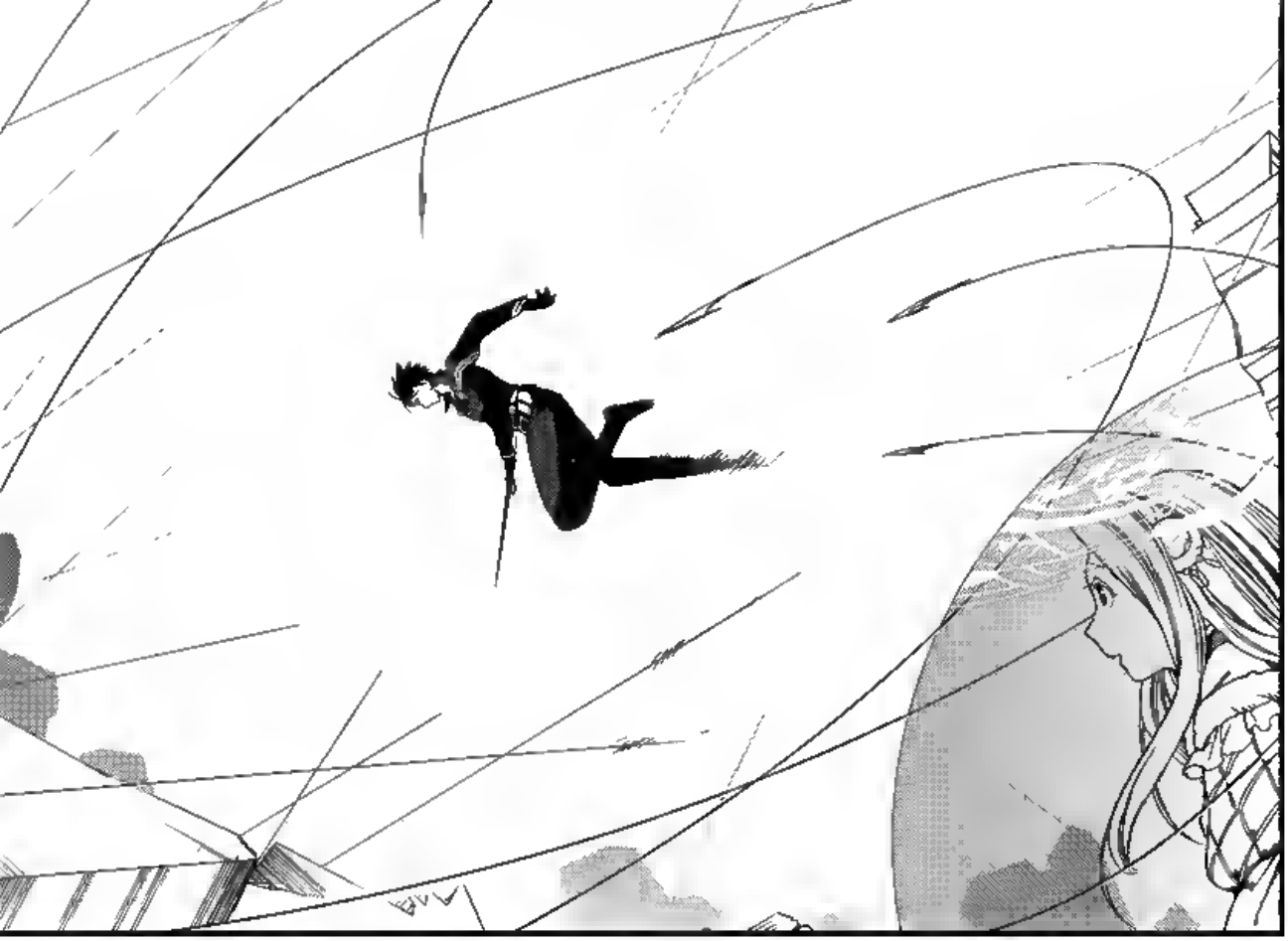
IF YOU INSIST ON OBSTRUCTING OUR JUSTICE...!
AND YOU, WHO PROTECTS HER, WILL BE CONSIDERED EVIL, AS WELL!
YOU WILL PERISH AS WICKED PEOPLE IN THE HISTORY TO COME!


LIGHTNING!

IS THAT A DRAGON'S ANTI-MAGIC SHIELD?

WE KNOW THAT PERFECTLY!

THAT WON'T WORK!



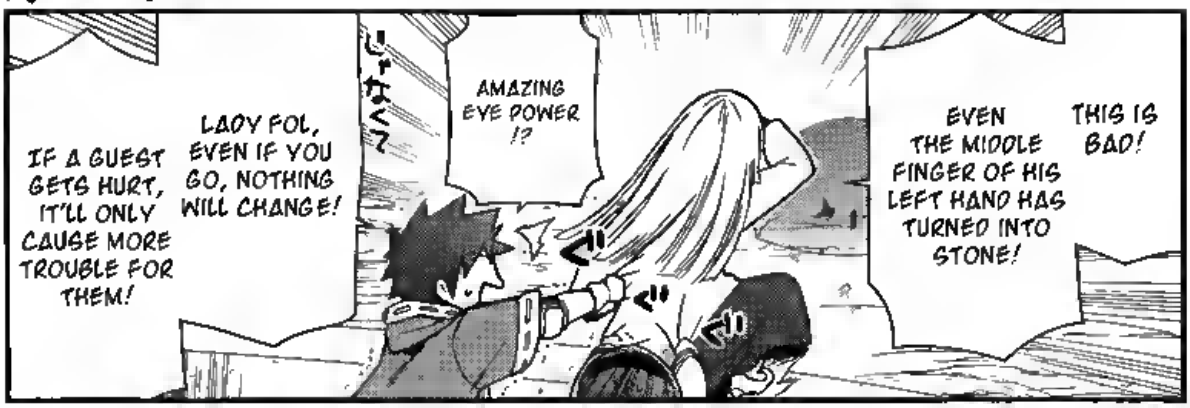
KOU-
SEN?

ITS ADVANTAGES ARE ITS STRENGTH, SHARPNESS, RANGE, AND FLEXIBILITY.
THESE WERE THE ONES THAT DESTROYED THE SCAFFOLDING THAT SUPPORTED THE SEATS SURROUNDED BY MAGICAL BARRIERS.
STRINGS MADE OF STEEL.
KOU-
SEN?

THOUGH MOST IM PORTANTLY ...
IS HOW YOU HANDLE THAT TOOL
!

The strings are gradually getting thicker.
The hairs on his entire body are steel strings, huh...
WHY DON'T YOU DO THIS TO A PLUMP WOMAN INSTEAD?
HE GOT CAPTURED!
HIS MOVEMENTS WERE WEAKENED IN A MOMENT.
LOOKS LIKE HIS BODY HAS SUDDENLY GOTTEN HEAVIER.
R-RAIN...
YOUR BODY...

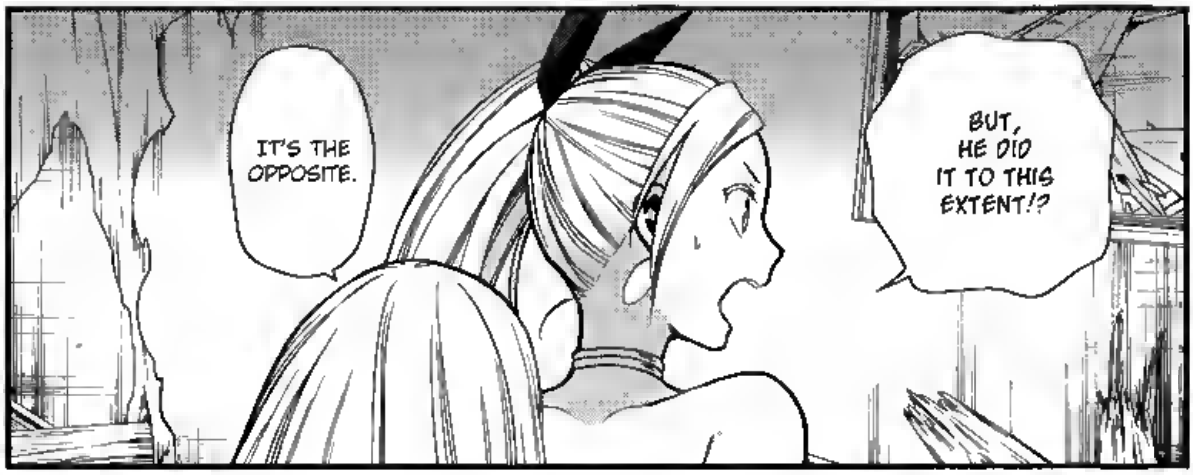
HE KNEADED HIS MANA WELL BEFORE EMITTING IT. IT'S A KIND OF TECHNIQUE THAT EVEN AN ANTI-DRAGON SHIELD CAN'T RESIST.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GUARD AGAINST THIS, WILL YOU?
EVEN IF YOU BOAST ABOUT A FORBIDDEN TECHNIQUE ...
IT'S TURNING INTO STONE!!

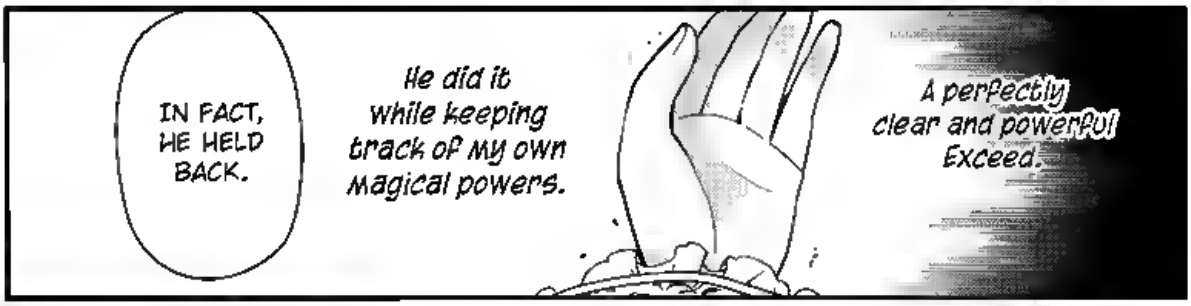

LADY FOL, EVEN IF YOU GO, NOTHING WILL CHANGE!
IF A GUEST GETS HURT, IT'LL ONLY CAUSE MORE TROUBLE FOR THEM!
じっ
AMAZING EYE POWER!?
EVEN THE MIDDLE FINGER OF HIS LEFT HAND HAS TURNED INTO STONE!
THIS IS BAD!

YOU'RE A NEWBIE WHO RELIES TOO MUCH ON YOUR SHIELD!
WATCH THIS, LITTLE GIRL!
WATCH THE FATE OF A PERSON WHO OPPOSES JUSTICE!
ス

I SENSED AN ABNORMAL POWER...
WHAT'S WRONG, PRINCESS?
WHY DON'T YOU COME HERE AND FIGHT ME DIRECTLY!
HEY CHIEF!
IS IT THAT FUN TO JUST WATCH FROM A DISTANCE?!
DON'T TELL ME... HE...
YOUNGER THAN EXPECTED.
A GIRL...
A SORCERESS?
WHAT?
THIS PRESENCE.
...I FOUND IT...

PLEASE STOP CALLING ME "PRINCESS".
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
CLAIRE!
A GREETING ?
I JUST RECEIVED A GREETING FROM THE RUMORED "RAIN".
CLAIRE...
SO HE SAW THROUGH YOUR CLAIRVOYANCE MAGIC, TRACED IT ALL THE WAY BACK HERE, AND SENT YOU A DIRECT ATTACK, HUH?
I DIDN'T INTEND TO UNDER-ESTIMATE HIM, BUT...


IT'S THE OPPOSITE.
BUT, HE DID IT TO THIS EXTENT!?


IN FACT, HE HELD BACK.
He did it while keeping track of my own magical powers.
A perfectly clear and powerful Exceed.

A WARRIOR THAT EVEN YOU ACKNOWLEDGE, HUH.
IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE THREE JOKERS ARE GOING TO HAVE A ROUGH TIME.

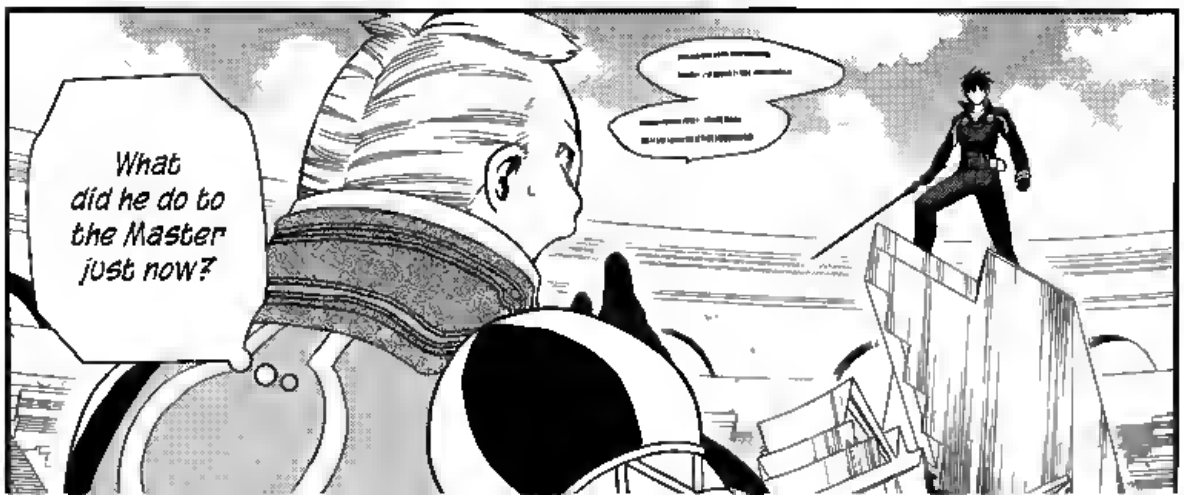
For him to actually go easy on me...
AS AN ENEMY, IT WILL BE A PITY IF I DON'T GET TO FIGHT HIM.

YES.
I WILL LEAVE IT TO YOU, ROY.
I WAS HIRED FOR THIS REASON AFTER ALL.
IF THEY DON'T RETURN, THIS TIME I WILL GO.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
SO I WILL HAVE TO TELL THE OTHERS.
CLAIRE!
AND SO, WE WILL POSTPONE THE ELIMINATION OF THE PRINCESS WHILE WE KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.
カツ
カツ
WE WILL ALSO HAVE TO SHIFT OUR POSITION BECAUSE THE THREE OF THEM ARE CAPTURED.

IDIOT!
THE PERSON I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS YOU!
IS IT SO COMPLICATED TO JUST TAKE THE LIFE OF A PERSON WHO IS AN ENEMY OF OUR SAVIOR TO WHOM WE OWE OUR LIVES?
DON'T ACT SO RECKLESSLY.
AND I DON'T HAVE SO MUCH POWER LIKE YOU DO.
I'M A GOOD FOR NOTHING.
AREN'T YOU THE ONE BEING RECKLESS?
YOU'RE MY ONLY KIN LEFT.

BIG SIS.
BUT...
THANK YOU.

...YEAH.


What did he do to the Master just now?

!?
What are Bajil and Kevin doing?
HE'S MAKING ALLOW-ANCES, HUH...
HE MADE IT SUCH THAT ONLY OUR MOVEMENTS ARE RESTRICTED.
HE REVERSED THE SPELL ONTO US IN THAT INSTANT...
YOU ROOKIE!
IN THE DUNGEON, THAT IS,
TAKE YOUR TIME TO UNDO THE SPELL...

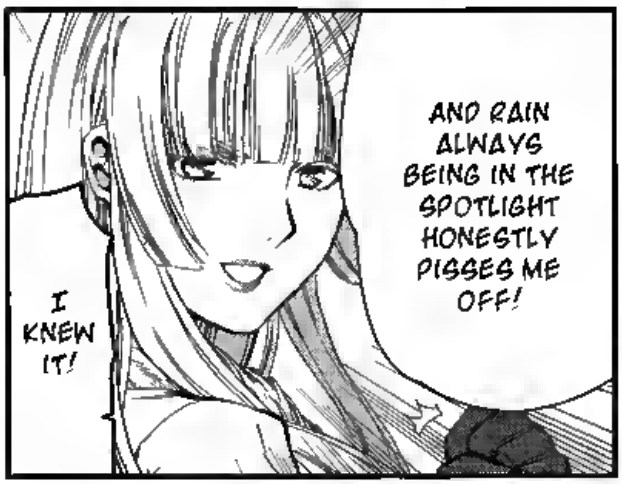
I WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
HE RE-MOVED THE BARRIER!
LESTER!
UNLEASH YOUR FULL POWER!
DON'T LET ANYONE GET OUT ALIVE!

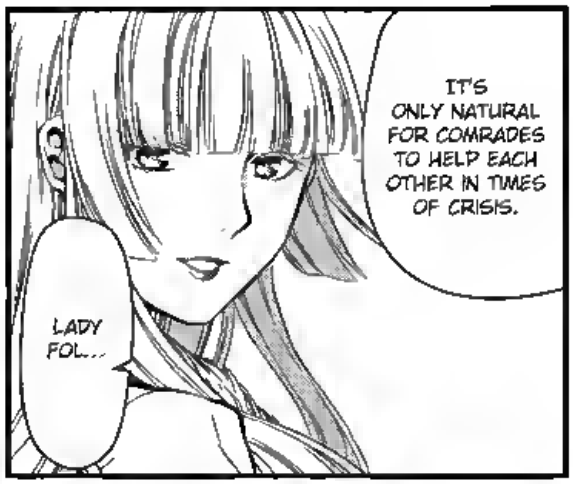
NO!
THE AUDI-ENCE'S SEATS!
ニュッ
LONG TIME NO SEE, RAIN!
I SEE YOU'VE TRULY GROWN INTO A HANDSOME MAN.
THERE ARE A LOT COMING OUT, SO...
SHOULD I BE ASSISTING YOU?
YOU KNOW WHAT MY REPLY WILL BE, DON'T YOU?

I'LL BE FINE HERE.
HELP ME TAKE CARE OF THOSE HEADING FOR THE AUDIENCE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW WHAT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS LIKE... YOU'RE SO UNFRIENDLY.
!?
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY LATE INTRODUC-TION, YOUR HIGHNESS.
!
THE SPELL THAT I CASTED DURING THE COMPETITION ...
WAS A SPELL THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY IMPROVISED BASED ON ONE THAT I INSTRUCTED HIM WITH.
IN-STRUCT-ED...
YOU'RE HIS TEACHER!
YEP, 10 YEARS AGO, THAT IS.
PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER!
LADIES, COULD YOU PLEASE SAVE THIS FOR LATER?

I WILL HELP!
IF IT'S HER, THE AUDIENCE WILL DEFINITELY BE SAFE.
LADY FOL, PLEASE HURRY INSIDE!
JUNNA ...
HOLD ONTO HIM.
?

FORGET ABOUT SAFEGUARDING ME.
GO AND HELP THEM OUT.


AND RAIN ALWAYS BEING IN THE SPOTLIGHT HONESTLY PISSES ME OFF!
I KNEW IT!


IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR COMRADES TO HELP EACH OTHER IN TIMES OF CRISIS.
LADY FOL...

FERIS, PUT MORE LIFE INTO THIS!
GET RID OF THE MONSTERS AND TAKE THOSE THREE DOWN ALONG WITH THE DUDE IN BLACK!!
あああ
"WE CAN'T TAKE DOWN THE DUDE IN BLACK!"
I THINK THAT WAS WHAT K SAID.

BE SURE TO PARTICIPATE PROPERLY BEFORE RETURNING!
あ
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF INITIATION...
ONE-ARMED SHOULDER THROW!

Looks like everyone's having troubles, huh.
IT'S ALREADY EMBARRASSING ENOUGH FOR US TO COME HERE WITHOUT LETTING K AND THE OTHERS KNOW, YOU IDIOT.
I DON'T CARE!! IT'S PUNISHMENT FOR TAKING MY SPOTLIGHT!!
I desire upon chaos and destruction...
Chanting!?
Rain is chanting!?
I desire upon the complete extermination of my enemies.
O' Mana, the Almighty origin of great powers!
THIS SPELL IS...!?

MISS SYLVIA!
IF YOU'RE AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS, PLEASE STOP HIM!
I'M SURE YOU KNOW THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE THIS SPELL WILL CAUSE!
IT'S A SPELL ONLY USED UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE ENEMY'S NUMBER IS ABOVE ONE THOUSAND!
THIS ENTIRE AREA WILL BE OBLITERATED!

YOU SURE KNOW A LOT.
IT'S A SPELL THAT I CREATED.
THOUGH, HE MODIFIED IT IN HIS OWN WAY.
REST ASSURED.
RAIN IS EVEN PERFORMING AN UNNECESSARY INCANTATION, SO I EXPECT AN EXTRA LEVEL OF PRECAUTION.
HE IS CONFIDENT IN NARROWING IT DOWN TO ONLY HIS ENEMIES.
I hold the power to bring destruction...
From the boundaries across the sky.

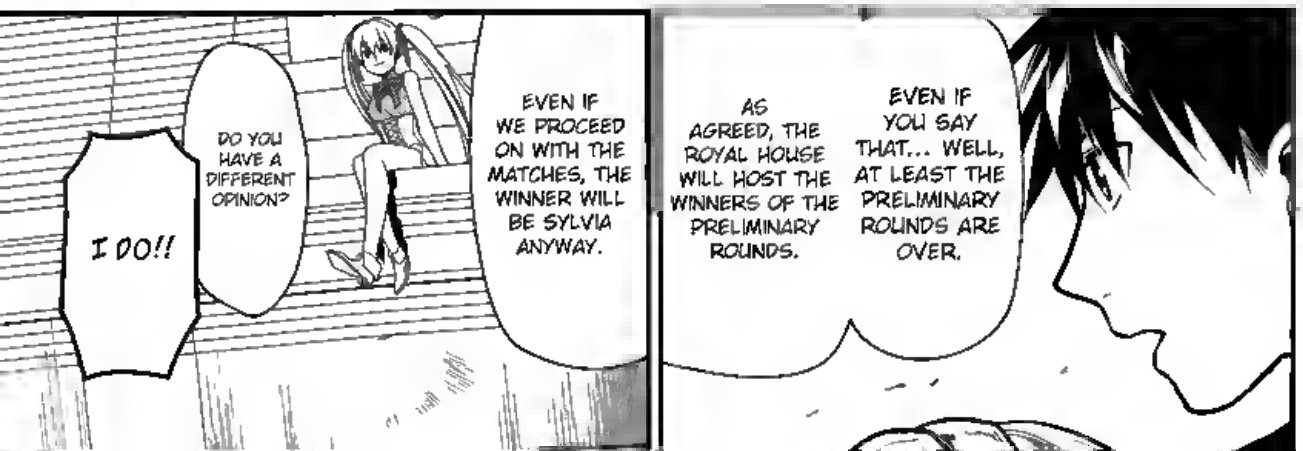
METEOR
STRIKE!

EVERYONE, DON'T MOVE AN INCH!
THAT'S RIGHT, A BARRIER!
EVEN IF HE MANAGES TO AIM AT SPECIFIC TARGETS, THE IMPACT WILL BE ENOUGH TO KILL THE REST OF US!
IN AN INSTANT!?
THIS MANY...
A BARRIER.

YOU SHOULD COVER YOUR EARS.
AH.

AL-
RIGHT.
SO
YOU'RE
ALIVE.
ドロ
ドロ
ドロ

ALRIGHT!
IF YOU'RE ALL FINE WITH ENDING THIS, EVERYTHING...
AS IF!!
LOOK AT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO THE ARENA!!
I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO NEXT, YOU KNOW!


EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT... WELL, AT LEAST THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS ARE OVER.
AS AGREED, THE ROYAL HOUSE WILL HOST THE WINNERS OF THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS.
EVEN IF WE PROCEED ON WITH THE MATCHES, THE WINNER WILL BE SYLVIA ANYWAY.
DO YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT OPINION?
I DO!!

Ah, idiot.
MY REAL INTENTION IN COMING HERE WAS TO FIGHT YOU ANYWAY!
TAKE UP THE RESPONSIBILITY AND FIGHT ME!!
ARE YOU PLANNING TO TRY TO ESCAPE?
A PICK UP!?
A PICK UP IS HERE.
NO, NOT MINE.
WE'RE OUT OF TIME.
I'M THE KIND OF GUY WHO ACCEPTS ANYONE WHO PICKS A FIGHT, BUT...

YOURS.

Recovered him.
I'M TRULY SORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLES HE HAS CAUSED BECAUSE OF HIS STUPIDITY.

K...
WHAT
DO YOU THINK
YOU ARE DOING?

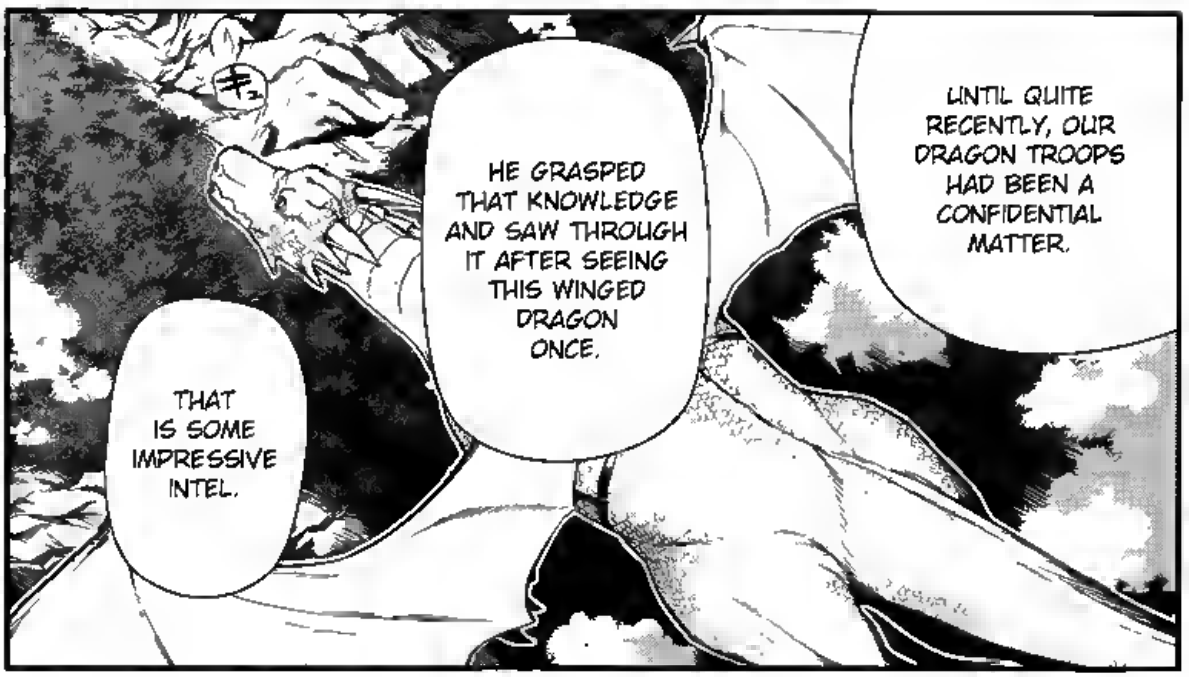
THEY ARE AMAZING CREATURES EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO TRAIN.
IT'S FINE.
THANKS TO THAT, I WAS ABLE TO SEE THE WINGED DRAGONS USED BY DRAGOONS THAT REYFAHN BOASTS ABOUT.
LOOKS LIKE THERE ISN'T A NEED FOR ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I WAS EVEN ABLE TO MEET A CAPABLE AND HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL.
SO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I'M ONE RELIABLE GUY IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY?
OH, AND I DON'T MIND IF YOU CHANGE THE "I" TO "MY SMALL COUN-TRY" INSTEAD.
MY DESPAIR IN SEEING YOU PERFORM THAT LARGE-SCALE MAGIC WAS FOR NAUGHT.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU NEVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

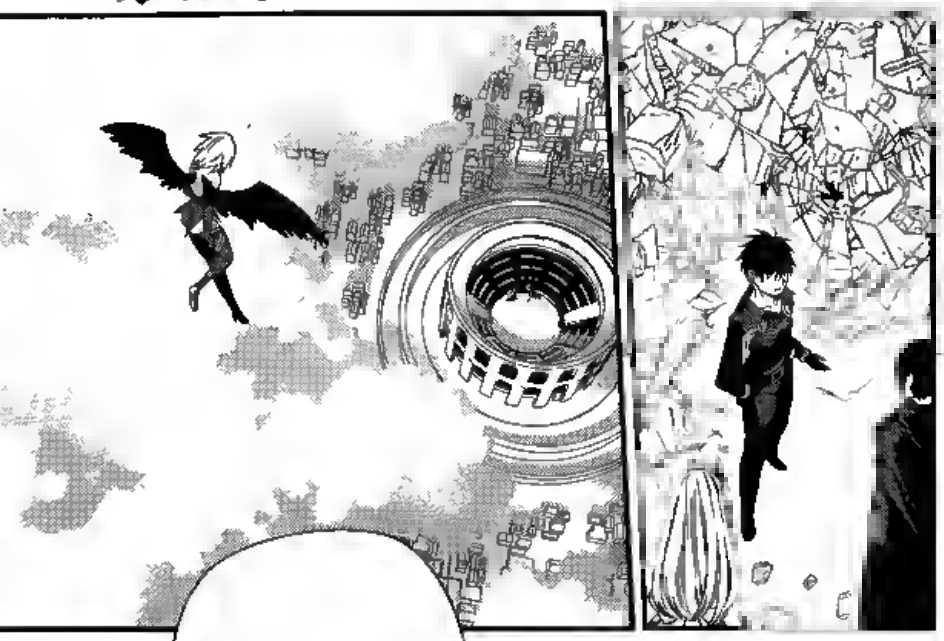
YOU HAVE AN EXCELLENT RETAINER BY YOUR SIDE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR OUR RUDENESS IN LEAVING JUST LIKE THIS.
I WILL LEAVE THE FORMAL GREETINGS TO OUR NEXT MEETING.
LET US GATHER AGAIN THE NEXT TIME IN A MORE APPROPRIATE PLACE.

HEY~
K~

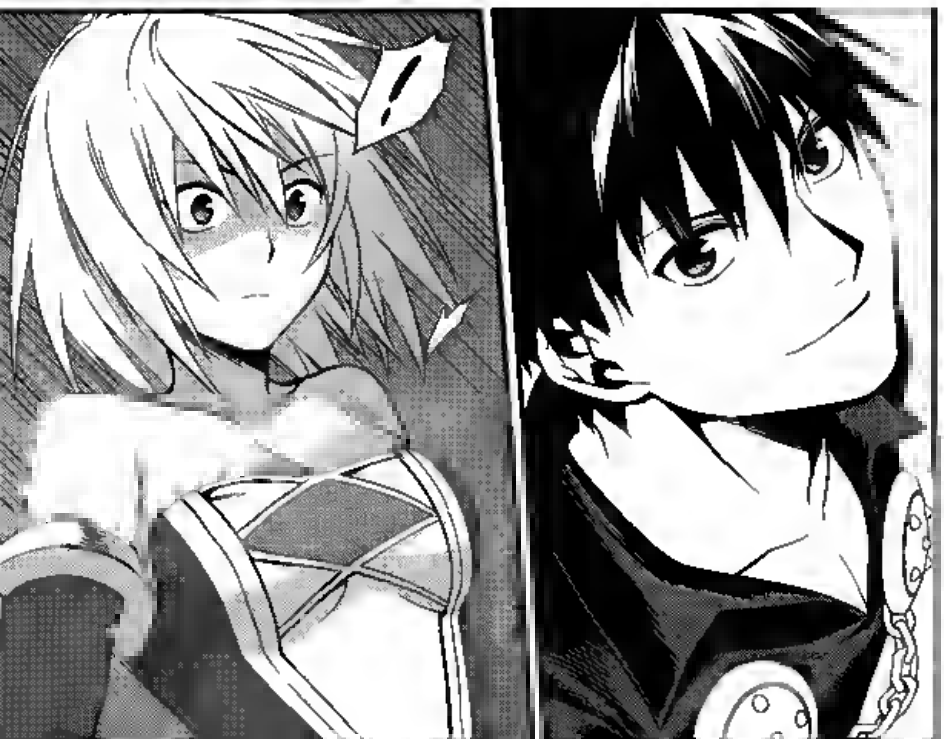
I HAD TO MEET HIM AT LEAST ONCE, ANYWAY.
NO NEED TO PURSUE IT ANY FURTHER.
BUT CHIEF WAS PUSHING IT~
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I DID STOP.

HARVEST-ING?
THEY WERE HARVESTING AS WELL


THAT IS SOME IMPRESSIVE INTEL.
HE GRASPED THAT KNOWLEDGE AND SAW THROUGH IT AFTER SEEING THIS WINGED DRAGON ONCE.
UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY, OUR DRAGON TROOPS HAD BEEN A CONFIDENTIAL MATTER.



SURE ENOUGH, HE'S PRETTY GOOD FOR A MERE HUMAN BEING.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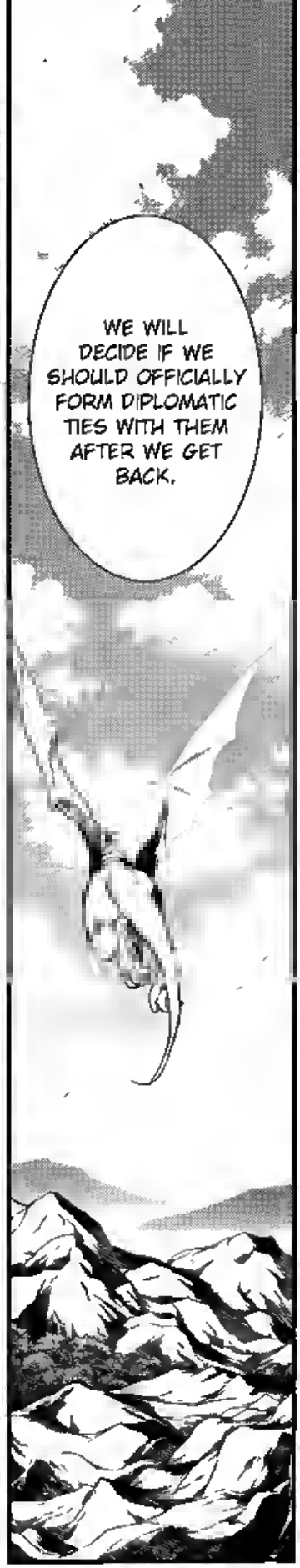
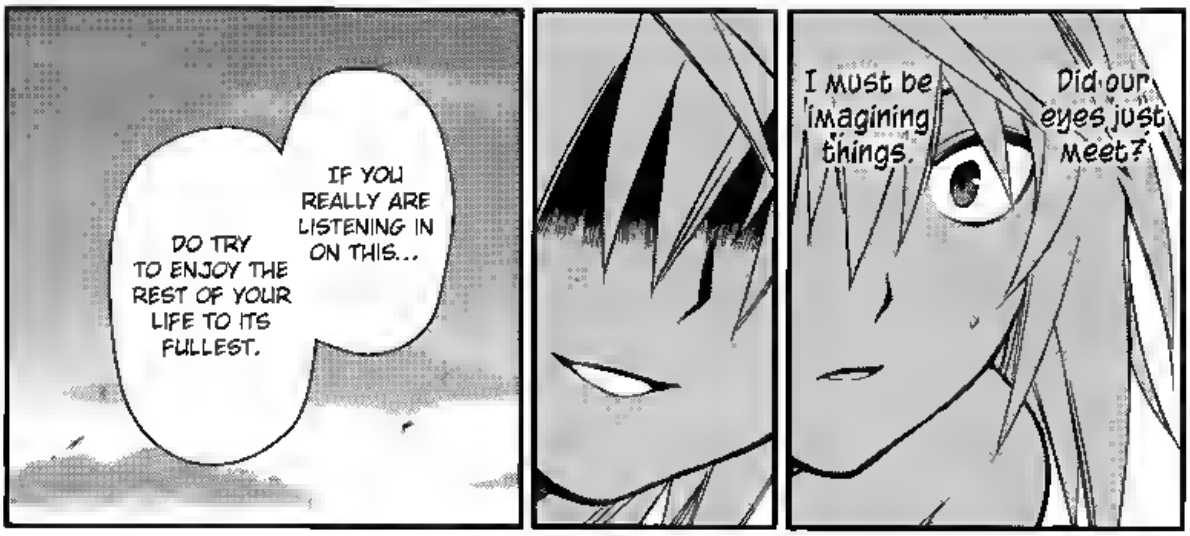

WE WILL DECIDE IF WE SHOULD OFFICIALLY FORM DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH THEM AFTER WE GET BACK.


Did our eyes just meet?
I must be imagining things.
IF YOU REALLY ARE LISTENING IN ON THIS...
DO TRY TO ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR LIFE TO ITS FULLEST.

Noel laughs fearlessly...along with the premonition of a new battle.

RAIN

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レン
The contestants of the final round of the Fighters' Gathering will be welcomed into the Royal Palace as knights, exempted from the qualifications that one would otherwise require under normal circumstances.
This is only a natural course of action for Sunkwell, which is currently prioritizing the expansion of its military.
However...
CHAPTER 47. NOEL ATTACKS!

I WILL REPAY THEM!
I BET ALL MY PARENTS' SAVINGS ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE MATCH!
Representative.

I WILL GLADLY OFFER YOU MY HELP AS A PRIEST.
I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PERMISSION TO BUILD THE CHURCH.
Different field of specialization

I DON'T FEEL LIKE BECOMING A KNIGHT.
BUT IF IT'S SOLELY FOR RAIN, I WILL GLADLY SERVE YOU.
Doesn't feel like it.

.....
Imprisoned-

LET US TALK AGAIN AT A MORE APPROPRIATE LOCATION!
Returning home.

I REALLY APOLOGIZE FOR EVERY-THING.
We're heading back!
Returning home.

The following day was the knighting ceremony...
Of two people.
I AM PREPARED TO GIVE IT MY ALL FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR MAJESTY!!
...I WILL DO MY BEST.
I WILL BE IN YOUR CARE, KNIGHT ABEL,
KNIGHT FALNA.
WELL THEN, YOUR HIGHNESS, ONCE PREPARATIONS ARE FINISHED, WE WILL BEGIN THE KNIGHTING CEREMONY.
ONLY TWO LEFT, HUH.
No.. I BELIEVE THAT THE TWO OF THEM HAVE DONE WELL TO SURVIVE THAT CRAZY COMPETITION.

I MANAGED TO CHAT A LOT WITH RAIN YESTERDAY.
YOU MUST BE FEELING TIRED AFTER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
NOT REALLY.
SO THAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS AWAY?
I DON'T THINK YOU MADE THE WRONG DECISION.
JOSHUA, WAS IT?
THERE'S A REASON HE POINTED THAT OUT.

IF I FELT LIKE IT, I COULD EASILY TOPPLE YOU ALL THE WAY DOWN ANY TIME I WANTED.
A "KING" IS SUPPOSED TO POSSESS THE GREATEST MILITARY POWER WITHIN A COUNTRY.
I want people to think of me as a schemer.
IN ANY CASE, YOU'RE INTERESTED IN NEITHER MONEY NOR SOCIAL STATUS, RIGHT?
IT'S NO GOOD THREATENING ME LIKE THAT.
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
WE WILL FORM A TROOP OF THEM FROM RECRUITS AND OUR OWN ARMY, AND THEN ARRANGE THEIR JOBS ACCORDINGLY.
IN ANY CASE, WE NEED IMPERIAL GUARDS.
カチャ

FOR NOW WE NEED TO PICK A REPRESENTATIVE, UNTIL WE HAVE GROOMED THE NEWCOMERS.
WELL.
I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN DOING SUCH THINGS, SO I MIGHT END UP WASTING POTENTIAL...
AND WILL I HAVE TO CHOOSE THE CAPTAIN OF THIS TROOP?
SOMEONE WHO CAN BE REPLIED UPON...
SOMEONE WHO CAN COORDINATE WELL WITH MY CAPTAINS AND RALPHUS...
AND WHO UNDERSTANDS YOUR INTENTIONS.
SOMEONE WHO HAS LED AN ARMY BEFORE,
AT THE VERY WORST, EVEN IF I WERE TO HOLD TWO POSITIONS, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DECIDE THAT SO PROMPTLY.
HOLD IT!
WAIT!
RA...

MY FACE SAID IT ALL AGAIN?
THE INTERVIEW ISN'T THE ONLY THING YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT, RIGHT?
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
IT SEEMS MY EXISTENCE IS AN EVIL THAT MUST BE DESTROYED.
BUT...
I DID SAY THAT I SORT OF UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY WERE TRYING TO GET AT, BUT...
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL TELL YOU ANYTHING WITHOUT SOLID EVIDENCE.

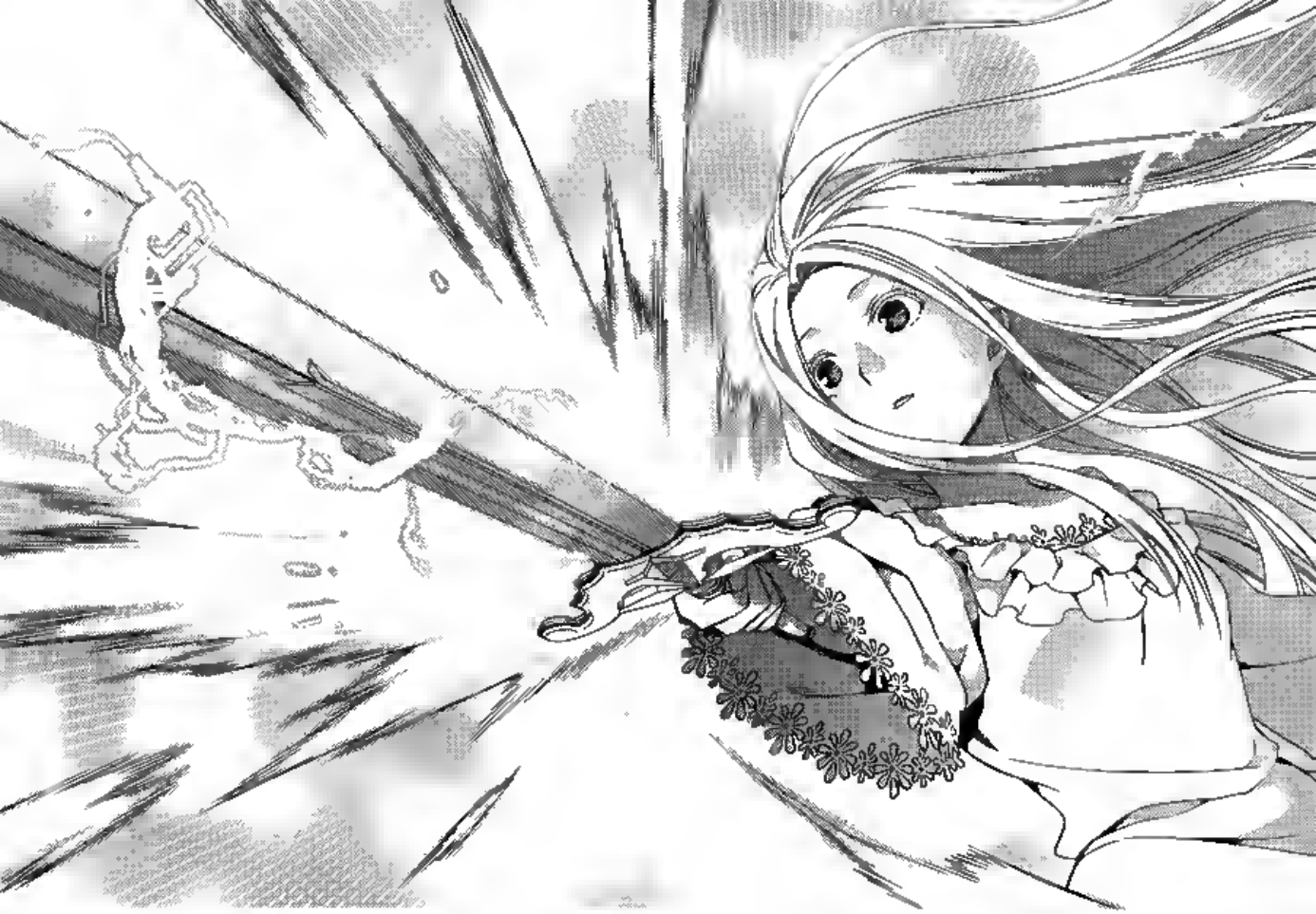
NO MATTER WHAT YOU REALLY ARE, I WON'T CHANGE.
SHELFA.

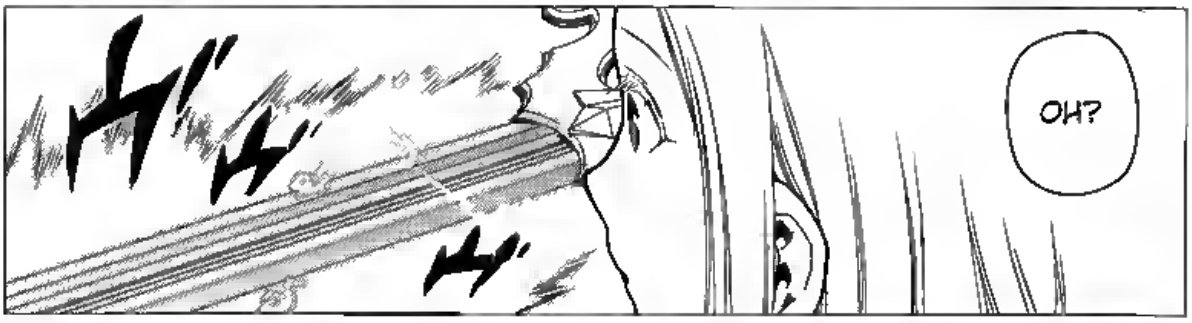
...OKAY.

I FEEL UNEASY.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN FORGETTING SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT.
SOMETIMES I FEEL THAT I'M BECOMING MORE OF SOMETHING THAT ISN'T ME.

BUT HAVING HEARD YOU SAY THAT,
I FEEL BETTER ALREADY.
IF IT'S FORGETTING SOMETHING, I'VE DONE THAT LOTS OF TIMES.
へのえ。
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
As for you...
Well, actually she's my real cause.

HEY,
CAN YOU TRY DRAWING THIS SWORD?
YOU PRACTICED THIS BACK AT MY CASTLE BEFORE RIGHT?
REMEMBER IT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET INTO POSITION
?
AH, WAIT.
THINK OF AN ENEMY?
IF IT'S TOO DIFFICULT, JUST THINK OF ANYONE LIKE THAT PERSON YOU INTERVIEWED RECENTLY.
THINK ABOUT SOMETHING THAT FRUSTRATES YOU AND POUR THAT EMOTION INTO THE SWORD.
HEIGHTEN YOUR BATTLE INSTINCTS..
NOW!!

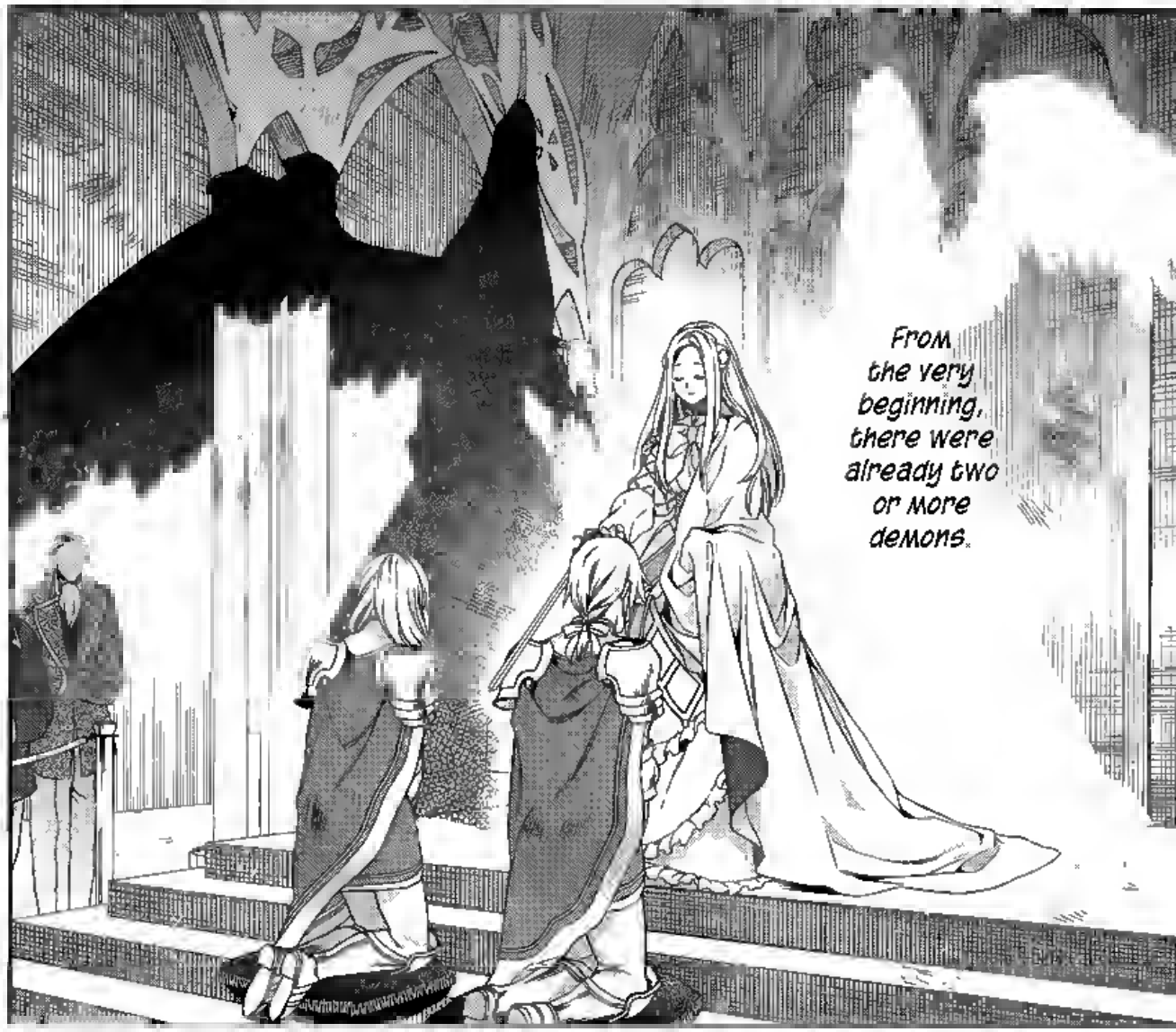


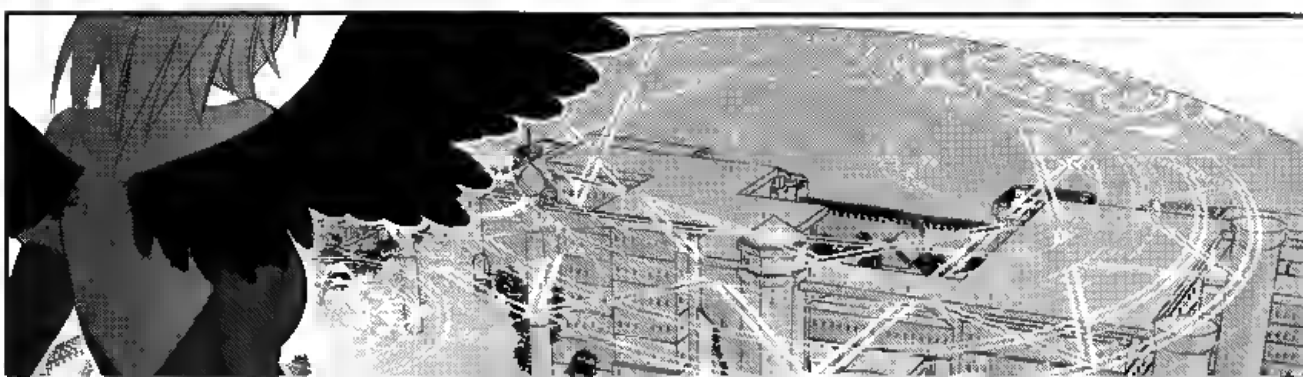

OH?

THE OTHER TIME IT DIDN'T SHINE LIKE THAT...
THIS SWORD'S LIKE THAT

THE SEAL OF THE DEMON STILL EXISTS.
EVEN THOUGH MICHELLE DISAPPEARED THAT NIGHT,
Upon a complete fusion with me, her powers might continue to grow.
But Sheila's powers have been increasing ever since then.
THE SOUL OF A DEMON FUSED WITH HER WHILE SHE WAS BEING BORN
...AS I THOUGHT

I SENSED SOMETHING OUT OF PLACE FOR A MOMENT DURING THE INTERVIEW
IT WAS A PRETTY COLD IMPRESSION.
IRREGULARITIES CAUSED BY THE FUSION?
NO...


From the very beginning, there were already two or more demons.

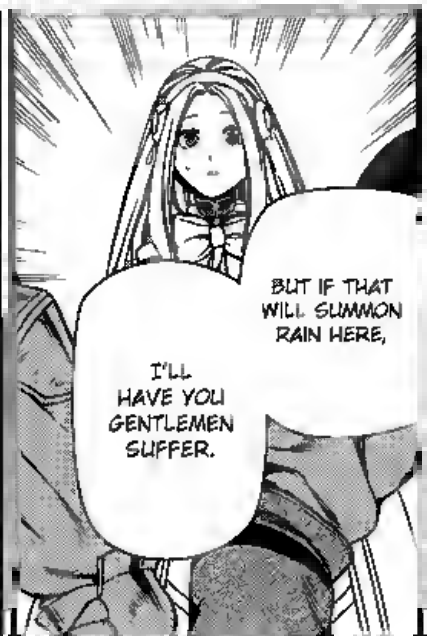


BY THE WAY, DO YOU NOT SENSE SOMETHING?
FROM OUTSIDE. I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT...

A ..AN ENEMY ATTACK!?
GUARDS! SURROUND HER MAJESTY!
DO NOT APPROACH THE ENEMY!
IT WAS ACTUALLY A PRETTY GOOD BARRIER.
IT'S BEEN DECADES SINCE I'VE FELT THIS THRILLED.
RAIN ISN'T HERE.
BUT IF I GO ON A RAMPAGE, HE'LL SNIFF ME OUT, WON'T HE?
ぽい
DID YOU COME HERE TO PLAY, YOUNG LADY?

GET LOST, SMALL FRIES.

YOUR MAJESTY, OVER HERE!


BUT IF THAT WILL SUMMON RAIN HERE,
I'LL HAVE YOU GENTLEMEN SUFFER.

I DON'T WISH TO RANDOMLY KILL WEAK-LINGS.

I CANNOT BE THE ONLY ONE RUNNING AWAY!
SHE'S COMING FOR YOU, YOUR MAJESTY!
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE EVERYONE, YOU HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE
LET US LURE HER TO AN OPEN SPACE AND MAKE A PINCER ATTACK.
SHE'S TOO STRONG FOR JUST THE FEW OF US.
WHAT IS THAT GIRL, ANYWAY?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM ME?
CHANGE OF PLANS. I WILL DRAW HER ATTENTION.
I'LL LEAVE HER MAJESTY TO YOU, GAZARAM.
I WILL STAY AS WELL.
AS IF I CAN LEAVE A NEWBIE AND MY LORD'S BEST FRIEND TO FIGHT HERE ALONE
IT'S AN OLD MAN'S JOB TO FIGHT IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION!
I WILL STAY!
I'M THE ONE SHE IS AFTER.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR ALL OF YOU TO RISK YOURSELVES FOR ME!

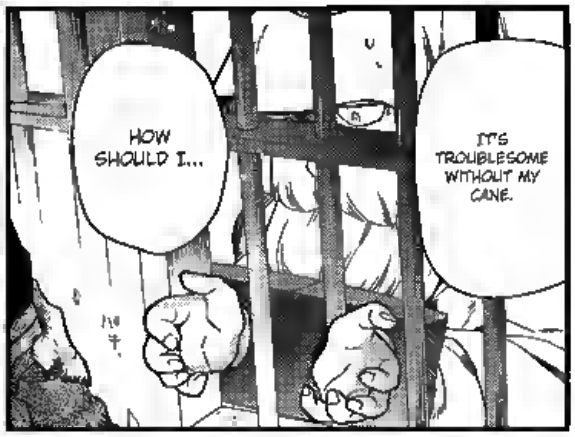
YOU'RE STRONG-WILLED, DESPITE BEING WEAK.
YOU GUYS ARE GOOD.
HEH.
IF POSSIBLE, I'LL TRY NOT TO KILL YOU OFF.
YOUR MAJESTY
STAND BACK.

ドガ
JUST AS I WAS HAVING A GOOD SLEEP.
IF I WERE TO LET HER MAJESTY GET HURT WHILE I'M AROUND...
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD FACE RAIN.

LADY SYLVIA!
I'LL PUT YOU TO SLEEP WITH MY OWN HANDS!!
IS THAT SO?
THEN I'LL SHOW YOU THE BEAUTY OF WAKING UP.

IT SURE IS NOISY OUTSIDE.
HOW CONVE-NIENT.
WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS COMMOTION AND ESCAPE

IT'S FINE.
I HAVEN'T RECOVERED ENOUGH TO PERFORM A FULL TRANS-FORMATION, BUT THIS...


IT'S TROUBLESOME WITHOUT MY CANE.
HOW SHOULD I...

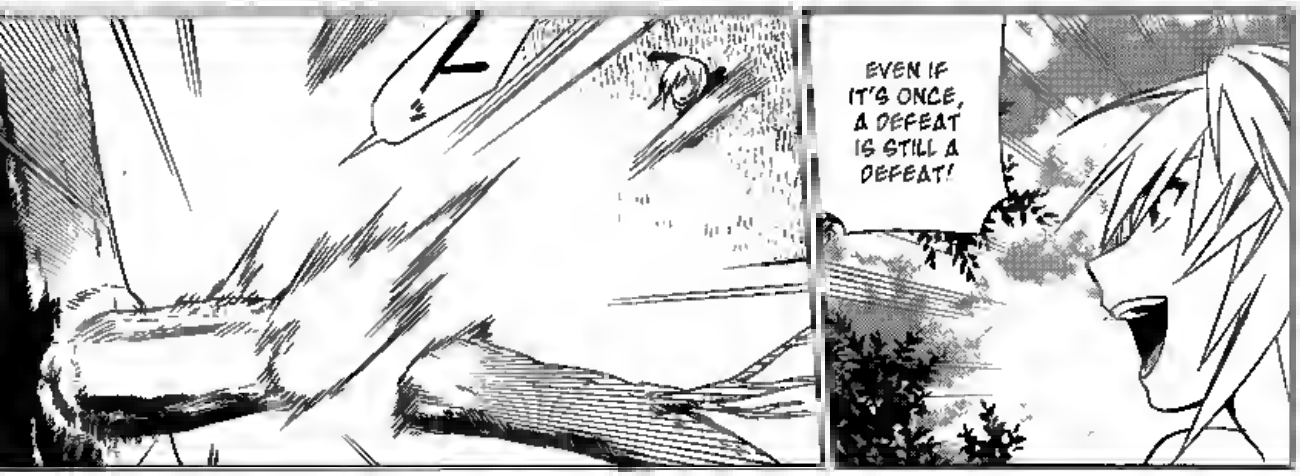
ALL RIGHT!
OLD MAN, HIDE US QUICKLY!
WE'RE RETURNING TO YOUR SIDE, LADY CLAIRE.

I THOUGHT I SMASHED YOU WITH ALL MY MIGHT...
INTER-ESTING
WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN, HUH?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A DEMON EITHER.
I'M SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM YOU, BUT UNLIKE YOU, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SHOWING OFF.
WHO KNOWS?

JET-BLACK WINGS,
AND A BLADE FORGED FROM MAGICAL ENERGY.
IF AN ORDINARY MAGICIAN WERE TO DO THAT, HIS MAGICAL ENERGY WOULD BE DEPLETED IN A SECOND.
AS EXPECTED OF AN ELITE DEMON.
THIS THING IS PRETTY USEFUL.
DEMON...
THAT IS...

IT'S EVEN EASY TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
IF YOU PLEAD EARNESTLY, I WILL AT LEAST GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW YOUR BLADE.
THAT WAS CLOSE.
A RANGED ATTACK.

EVEN SO, I'VE ONLY BEEN DEFEATED IN SWORDPLAY ONCE.
SWORDPLAY IS NOT MY AREA OF EXPERTISE, AFTER ALL.
IT'S FINE.


EVEN IF IT'S ONCE, A DEFEAT IS STILL A DEFEAT!

YEP.
BUT IF IT WERE TO A REAL GENIUS, THEN I'D HAVE NEITHER SHAME NOR REGRETS.

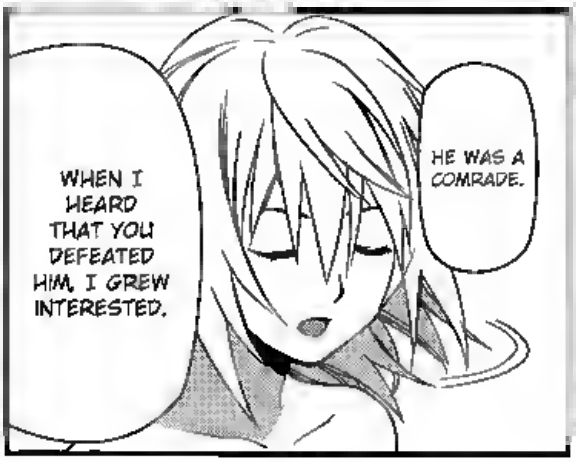
BUT THIS IS MY TRUE SPECIALTY!

TRIANGLE
EXTINCTION!

ビキッ
DID SHE WIN?
THAT LIGHT...
OH MY, YOU'RE PRETTY STUBBORN.
I GUESS I WAS AFRAID OF DAMAGING THE CASTLE.
ニョウ
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU WENT EASY ON ME?
UNDERES-TIMATING ME...
ガシッ

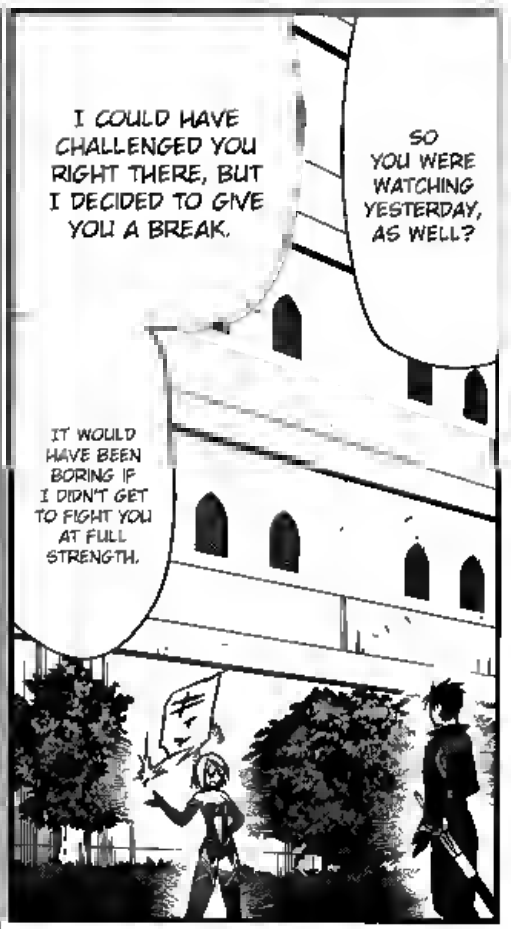
THAT'S ENOUGH!
SWITCH OUT.
SHE IS AFTER ME, RIGHT?
RAIN!
I DON'T HAVE TO SEE HIM TO KNOW IT.
YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS DISTANCE?
LEAVE THE REST TO ME...
ALRIGHT?
IT WAS KIND OF FUN, BUT...
SHE'S AN OPPONENT WHO CAN ACTUALLY MATCH ME.
IF IT'S AN ORDER FROM MY FORMER STUDENT, ALBEIT PRESENT MASTER, I HAVE NO CHOICE.

OKAY, OKAY.
DON'T GET HURT.
SHE'S PRETTY STRONG, YOU KNOW.


WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU DEFEATED HIM, I GREW INTERESTED.
HE WAS A COMRADE.

ARE YOU ONE OF REYGUL'S SUBORDINATES?
NO, THEN.
WHY ARE YOU AFTER ME?

MY NAME IS NOEL,
AND I AM A PROUD AND POWERFUL ELITE [illegible].
CARVE THAT NAME INTO YOUR HEART IN THE SHORT TIME BEFORE YOUR DEATH.

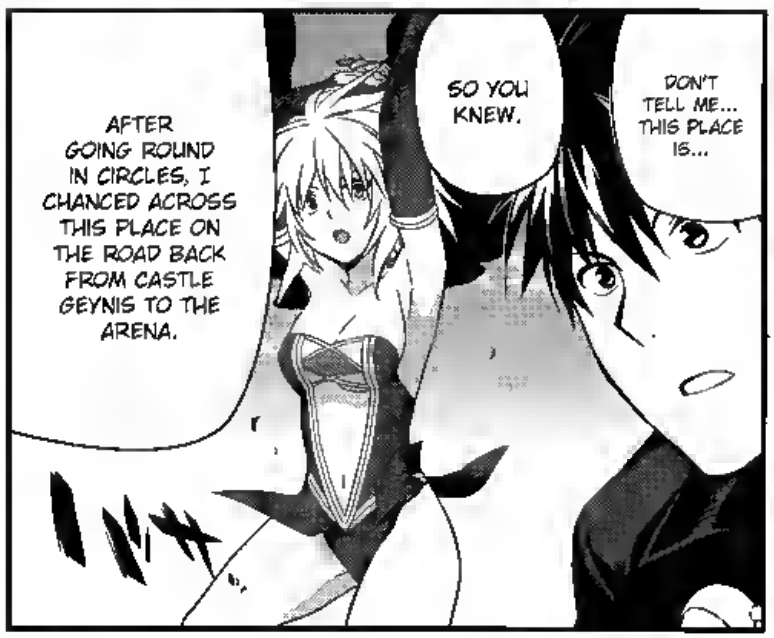

I COULD HAVE CHALLENGED YOU RIGHT THERE, BUT I DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A BREAK.
SO YOU WERE WATCHING YESTERDAY, AS WELL?
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BORING IF I DIDN'T GET TO FIGHT YOU AT FULL STRENGTH.

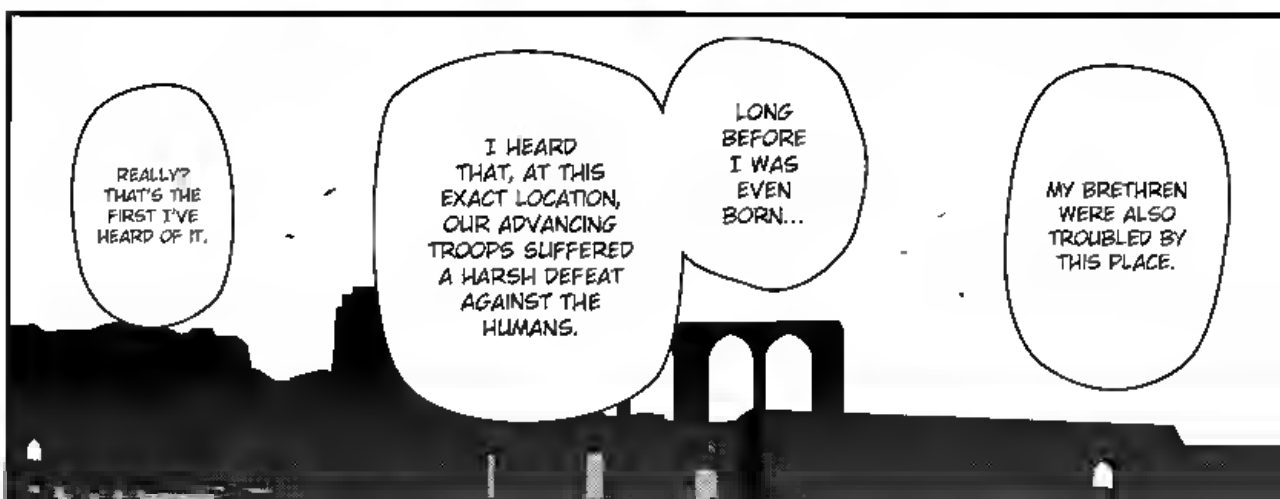
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE AT ALL WHO CAME OUT WITH THAT GIBBERISH AND MANAGED TO MAKE GOOD ON IT.
CAPTURE THE INTRUDER!
LORD BALPUUS IS SURE TO PRAISE ME FOR THIS.

TAKE THIS AS PUNISHMENT FOR YOUR FRIVOLOUSNESS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, YOU FOOL!
I have to agree with her.
Nulli-Pied!?

ARE YOU ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE WHO CAN'T FIGHT SERIOUSLY WHILE BEING DISTRACTED BY THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU?
I CAN'T JUST ABANDON HER.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S AN IDIOT, SHE'S AN ACQUAINTANCE OF A CLOSE FRIEND OF MINE.
ガッ
THEY DISAPPEARED!?
WE'LL GO TO A PLACE WHERE WE CAN FIGHT FOR REAL.
THERE ARE TOO MANY OBSTACLES HERE.

しゅっ


AFTER GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES, I CHANCED ACROSS THIS PLACE ON THE ROAD BACK FROM CASTLE GEYNIS TO THE ARENA.
SO YOU KNEW.
DON'T TELL ME... THIS PLACE IS...


REALLY? THAT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT.
I HEARD THAT, AT THIS EXACT LOCATION, OUR ADVANCING TROOPS SUFFERED A HARSH DEFEAT AGAINST THE HUMANS.
LONG BEFORE I WAS EVEN BORN...
MY BRETHREN WERE ALSO TROUBLED BY THIS PLACE.

"CELESTIA".
THAT'S WHAT THIS LAND OF DEMONS WAS CALLED, ONCE UPON A TIME.
The premonition of a fierce battle... is inevitable!
BLADE 9

RAIN

SENSE

www.sensescans.com
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Raws: Sense-Scans
Translator: zkein
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EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY!

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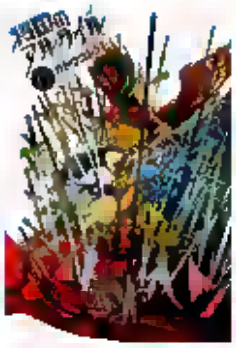

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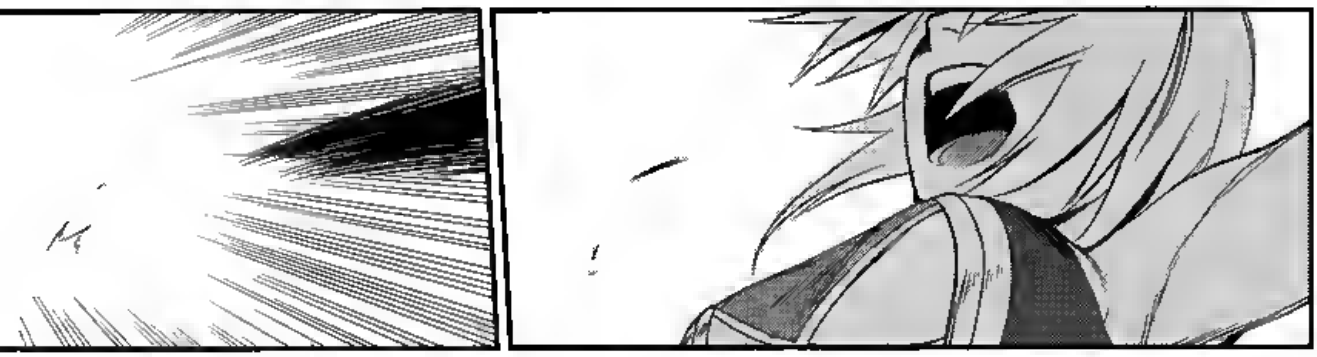
I SHOULD ABLE BE TO DETECT RAIN'S PRESENCE SOMEHOW IF HE'S NEARBY, BUT NOW I CAN'T SENSE HIM AT ALL.
YES.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY WENT.
TELEPORTATION MAGIC?

W...
WHAT?
SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS...
THAT'S RIGHT, MISS SYLVIA!

HEH.
A PRETTY GOOD PLACE TO FIGHT IN

SO THAT...
WAS HOW HE REACHED THIS PLACE.

RAIN#48
NIGHT WORLD
ORIGINAL AUTHOR:TAKUMI YOSHINO
ART:MEGUMI SUMIKAWA



THAT WAS AN AFTER-IMAGE.

DO YOU FEEL IT NOW?

?

!

LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRUE THAT YOU DID FORCE REYGUL TO RETREAT AFTER ALL.
YOU HAVE GOOD MOVE-MENTS.

Rin
I THOUGHT I'D DODGED THAT....
THANKS FOR DOING ME THE FAVOR OF SWITCHING OUR LOCATION.
HERE, I CAN FIGHT TO MY HEART'S CONTENT.

IF YOU THINK THAT DEMONS ARE THE ONLY CREATURES THAT CAN FLY...
YOU ARE SADLY MIS-TAKEN!
IDIOT!
WHAT ARE YOU AIMING AT?

No...
He plans to only use this level of attack on a demon?
I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU PLAN TO HIDE, BECAUSE I'LL JUST BLAST EVERYTHING AWAY.
As if you can fool me!

ズッ
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT, YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE LATE.

IS
THAT
SO?
THIS IS THE END
LOOKING AT THAT WOUND, IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR REGENERATION SPEED HAS BEEN REDUCED TO THAT OF A HUMAN
I ADMIT YOU ARE VERY POWERFUL.
SO I APOLOGIZE FOR UNDERESTIMATING YOU ALL THESE TIMES.
BUT THIS IS NOT THE END.

I can't see anything.
And I can't hear anything as well.
If I stay in here too long, I will lose all sense of time.
"NIGHT WORLD.

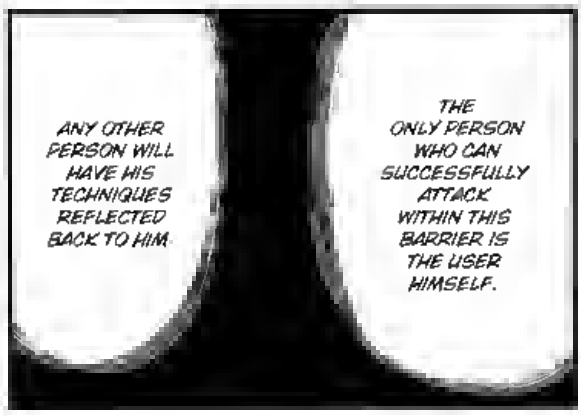
My blade as well.
Which means there is a floor.
I'm standing up.
Calm down.

VERY ASTUTE.
I GUESS IT'S MOST APPROPRIATE TO SAY THAT I'M TRAPPED WITHIN A SPELL
IF I COMPARE THIS TO REALITY IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE AN ISOLATED SPACE AS WELL
I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING ABOVE THIS GROUND

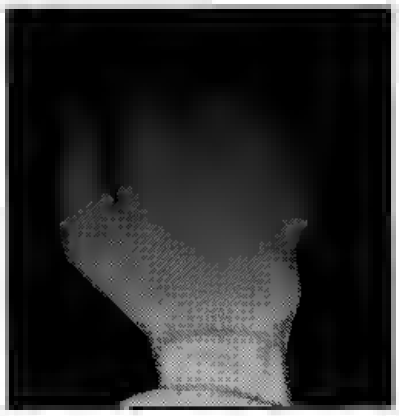
WELCOME TO MY ISOLATED DIMENSION.
HAVING SAID THAT, THIS WAS ORIGINALLY MY FAMILY'S TECHNIQUE
A LONG TIME AGO, I WAS TRAPPED BY THIS TECHNIQUE, BUT LUCKILY I WAS PRETTY GOOD AT BARRIER MAGIC.
I BROKE IT, STOLE IT AND MODIFIED THE TECHNIQUE INTO MY OWN.
Oh
TALKING ABOUT A FAMILY OF SAVAGES.
BUT HAVING HEARD THAT, I FEEL MORE AT EASE
HMM?
IF YOU MANAGED TO BREAK IT THEN I WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO BREAK IT APART AS WELL
THEN SHOW ME AN IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION OF IT

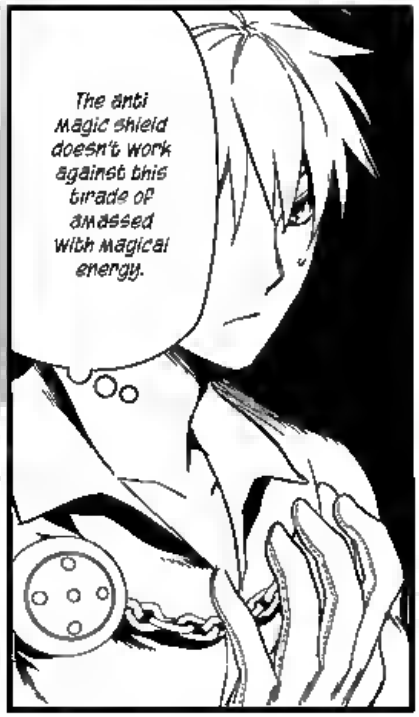
The range
attack from
that sword
The po
of the
and
direction
THERE!

ぎゅん
WOAH!


ANY OTHER PERSON WILL HAVE HIS TECHNIQUES REFLECTED BACK TO HIM.
THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN SUCCESSFULLY ATTACK WITHIN THIS BARRIER IS THE USER HIMSELF.

WAS THAT MY...
SO YOU'VE NOTICED.




The anti magic shield doesn't work against this tirade of amassed with magical energy.

I'm losing my vision as well...

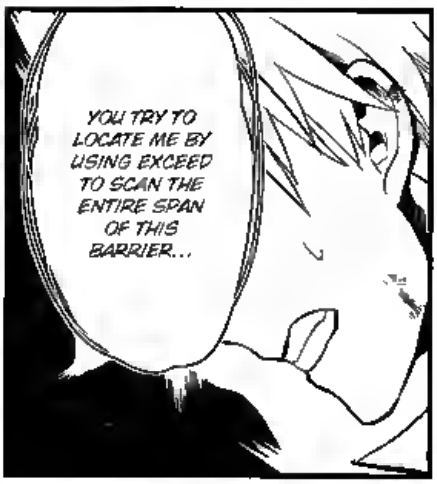
Using pure intuition.
I'll just have to dodge it...

The skies are moving eastward from Zarmin's capital city Reagnl.
SARAH, IF YOU DON'T FLY AT HIGHER ALTITUDES, PEOPLE WILL NOTICE YOU.
I KNOW, I KNOW.

THE ONLY ONES AMONG US WHO ARE CAPABLE OF THAT ARE LORD REYGUL AND NOEL.
WELL, THAT CAN'T BE HELPED
IF ONLY I COULD TELEPORT. .
THAT INSOLENT BRAT DARED TO OPPOSE LORD REYGUL?
DON'T MENTION THAT NAME IN FRONT OF ME.
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, I'LL BE SURE TO BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF YOU
NOEL

AS YOU WITHSTAND MY BLOWS...

THE MOMENT YOU LOCATE, YOU TRANSFER YOUR ENERGY TO THAT SWORD AND PREPARE TO SWING IT...


YOU TRY TO LOCATE ME BY USING EXCEED TO SCAN THE ENTIRE SPAN OF THIS BARRIER...

YOU WON'T LAST LONG.
I ADMIRE YOUR RESOURCEFULNESS, BUT AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE TOO AMBITIOUS?

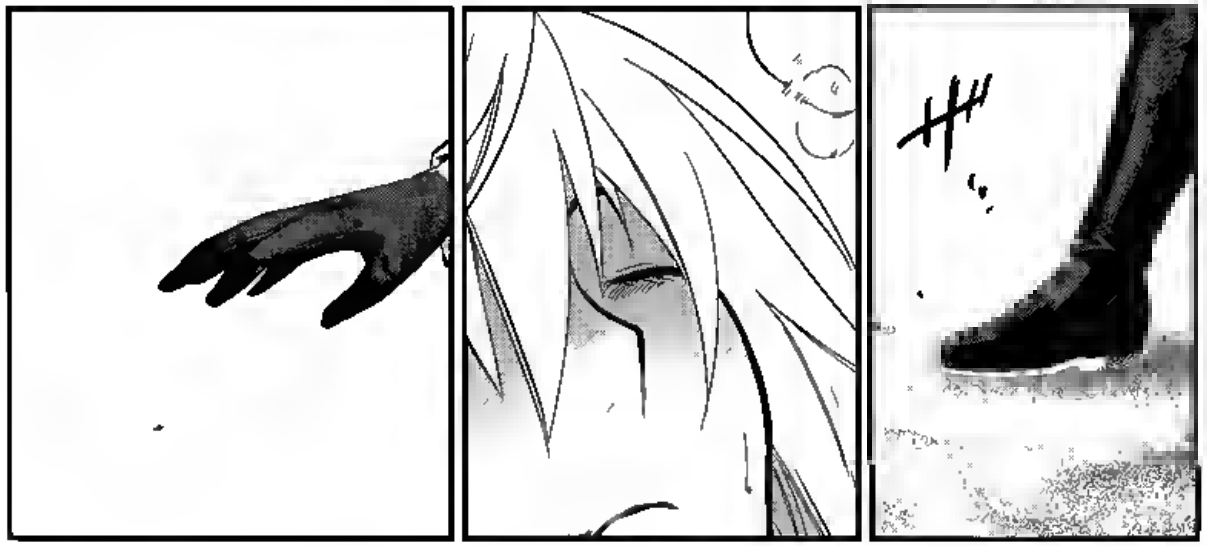
LOOK.
Focus on detecting her.
It's just a graze.
I won't die as long as it's not a direct attack.
Don't mind that.
HMM?
Has he given up?
I'M already used to this kind of suffering, after all.

THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TO GIVE YOU A QUICK DEATH.

FOUND YOU!

I THOUGHT THE MATCH WAS ONLY GETTING INTERESTING.
CAN YOU GO ON?

It won't be too bad, getting killed by someone like you
Kill me
It's my loss
No.



!!!?
NO THANKS.
W-W-W-W-W-WHAT ARE YOU!?
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND, IDIOT.
I'M JUST HEALING YOU.
I'M YOUR ENEMY!
HEH... DO YOU STILL PLAN TO ATTACK ME?
NO...
NOT THAT, BUT...
I HAVE NO REASON TO KILL SOMEONE THAT'S NOT AN ENEMY.

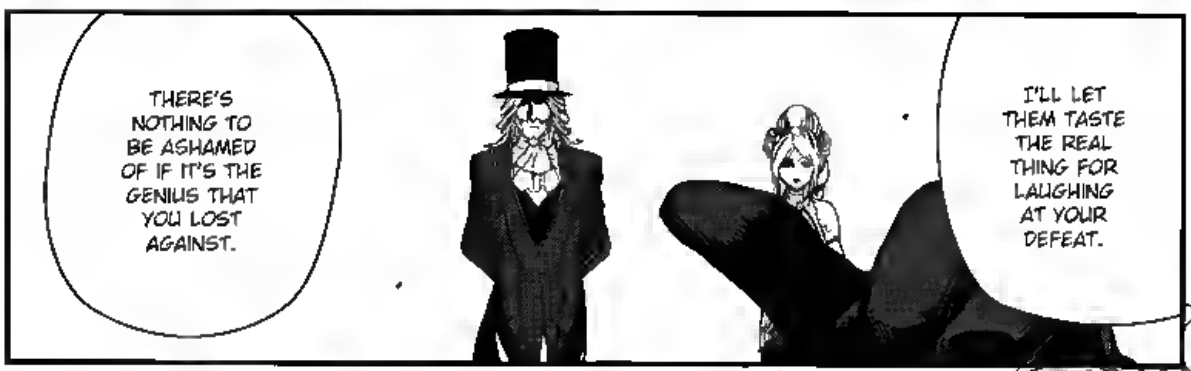
YOU CAN PAY ME BACK WITH YOUR BODY IF YOU WANT TO.
YOU'RE NAIVE. SOMEDAY THAT NAIVETE OF YOURS WILL COST YOU YOUR LIFE.
DURING THIS KIND OF SITUATION, YOU SHOULD JUST KEEP QUIET AND LET ME HELP YOU.
IF YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING, THANK ME INSTEAD.
It...
It hurts when I laugh.
FINE, FINE, KEEP QUIET ALREADY
I'M HEALING YOU FOR REAL OVER HERE.
OKAY.
THANK YOU.

SOMEONE'S COMING!
!
ACQUAINTANCES OF YOURS?
FORMER COMRADES
THIS PRESENCE... SARAH AND DUWEE?
WERE THEY THOSE FORMER COMRADES* OF YOURS WHO WERE TROUBLED BY THIS PLACE?
ON TOP OF NOT BEING ABLE TO TELEPORT, THERE'S NO WAY THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CATCH ME EVEN IN THIS STATE.
NO.
ARE THEY HERE TO FINISH YOU OFF?
I THINK THEIR MOTIVE IS THIS PLACE.

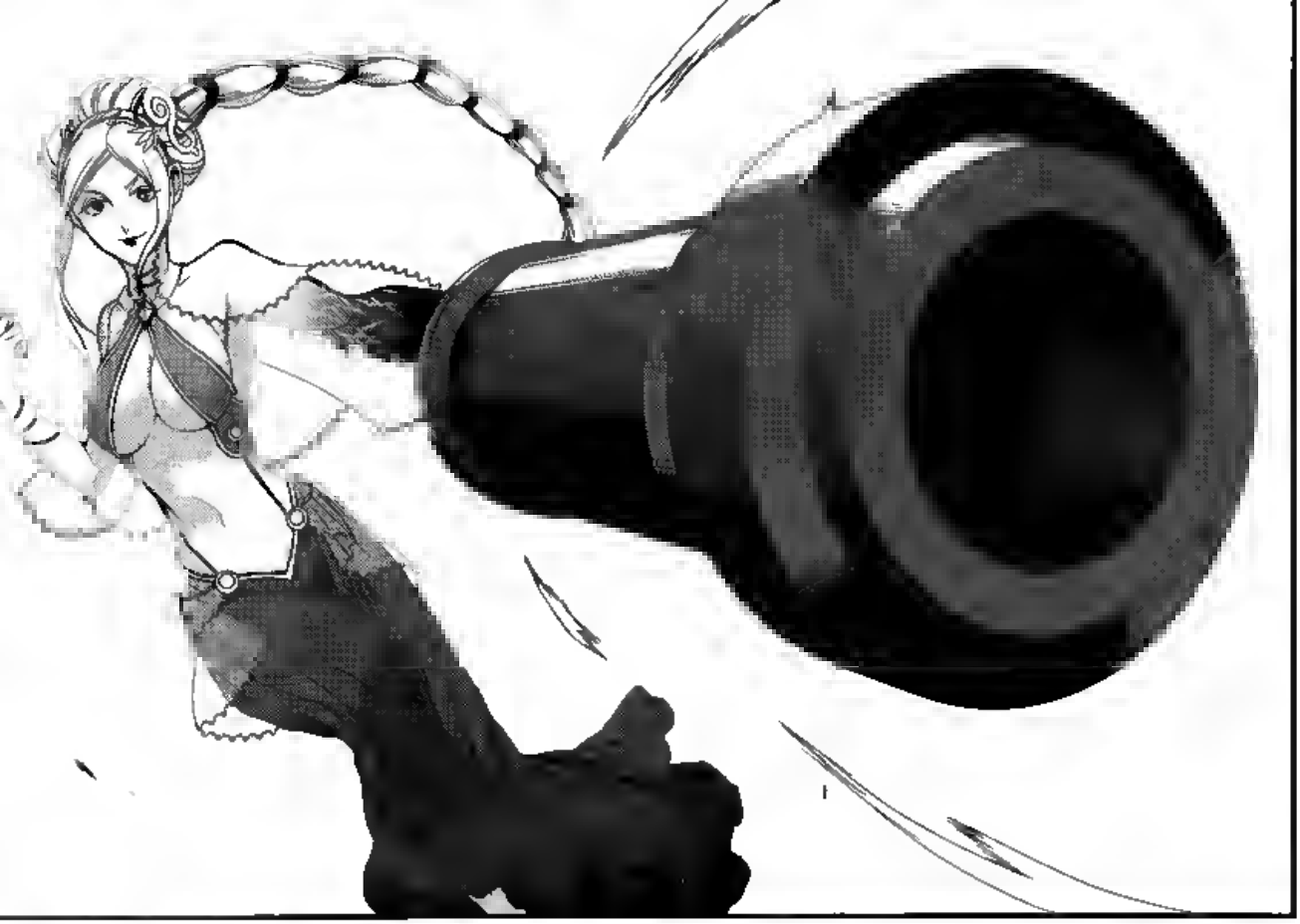
WELL, WELL.
YOU LOOK WELL, NOEL.
AFTER TALKING BIG IN FRONT OF LORD ZEYGUL, LOOK AT THE STATE YOU'RE IN RIGHT NOW.
IS THAT MAN IN BLACK THE RUMORED "RAIN"?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME THAT YOU WERE BEATEN BY A HUMAN? A MERE NEWBIE AT THAT?
YOU GUYS...
IF YOU'RE HERE TO PICK A FIGHT, I'LL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE.
I'LL TAKE THE TWO OF YOU BY MYSELF.
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.
TWO AGAINST ONE IN THAT STATE?

REYGUL'S SUBORDINATES ARE MY ENEMIES
YES IT DOES!
RAIN. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

IT'S TWO AGAINST TWO.


THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF IF IT'S THE GENIUS THAT YOU LOST AGAINST.
I'LL LET THEM TASTE THE REAL THING FOR LAUGHING AT YOUR DEFEAT.

I WILL MAKE YOU REALIZE THE TRUE STRENGTH OF A DEMON!
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SAY WHEN YOU LOOK SO HUMAN COVERED WITH ALL THOSE INJURIES.



WELL, NOT IN THIS WORLD.

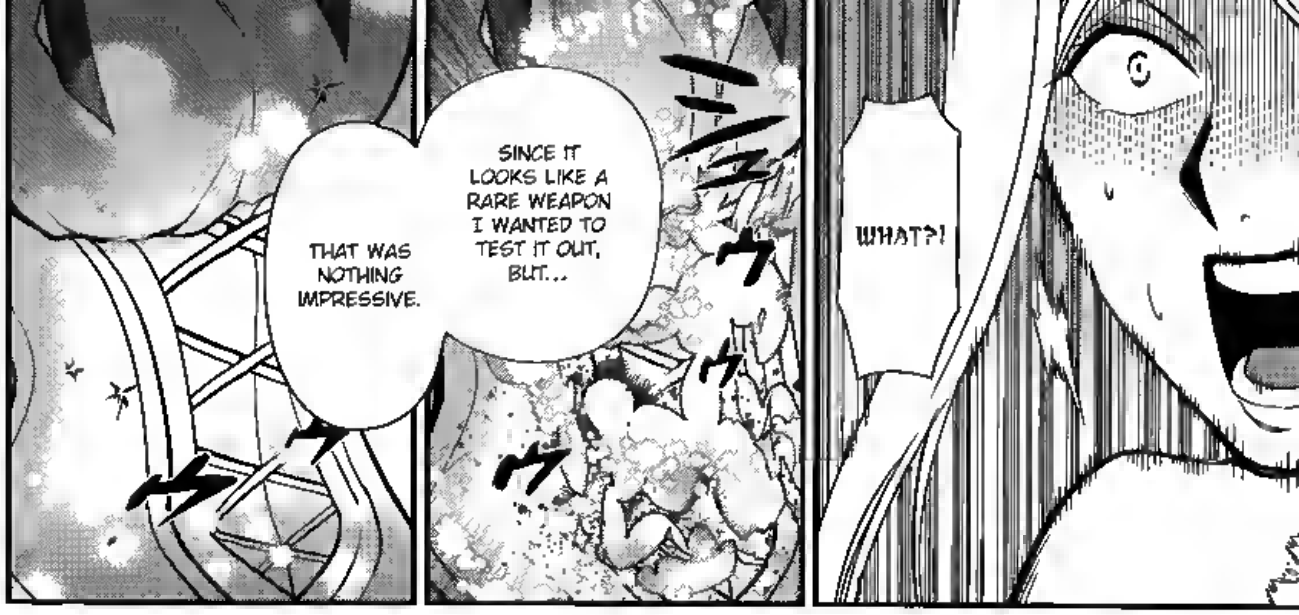
HAVEN'T SEEN ONE OF THESE BEFORE HAVE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

EH...
REALLY...

LOOKS LIKE I CAN HAVE A LITTLE FUN HERE
BRING IT ON, WOMAN.
THE MAN WITH THE MOUSTACHE TOO!

IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULD HAVE LEARNED IT FROM HER.
SHE CAN TELEPORT AS WELL?
SINCE THEY HAVE THAT KIND OF WEAPON, LET'S MAKE IT THREE VERSUS TWO.
SYLVIA!?
SHE'S NEITHER A DEMON NOR A NORMAL BEING...
HMPH.
DUWEE THAT GIRL...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, BUT...
I'LL HAVE YOU DIE!

WAS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?
HAHA...


WHAT?!
SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE A RARE WEAPON I WANTED TO TEST IT OUT, BUT...
THAT WAS NOTHING IMPRESSIVE.

WHAT ARE YOU, GIRL?
AH, STILL AT IT?
JUST SO YOU KNOW, IT'LL BE REALLY HARD TO KILL ME.

DON'T YOU COME BARGING IN!
THIS IS MY FIGHT!
NO, IT'S MINE!

...アイ?
IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GETTING FUN!
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME INTENDING AS WELL!?
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
ズ——ン☆

I am an ally of women and children! One of the top four demons!
The son of a maiden, and my name is Vintur fon Bloomhart.
Present
ly...
Visiting!
Inappropriate for battle...who in the world is this?
A WEIRD GUY JUST APPEARED.

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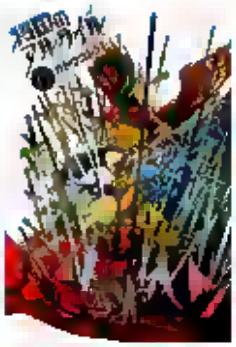

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